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SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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EVANSVILLE

February 28, 1923

BULLETIN No. 18

October, 1923

INDIANA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE HOUSE, INDIANAPOLIS

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EVANSVILLE
February 28, 1923

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INDIANA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE HOUSE, INDIANAPOLIS

INDIANAPOLIS:
WM. B. BURFORD, CONTRACTOR FOR STATE PRINTING AND BINDING
1923

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Southwestern Indiana Historical Society, organized in Evansville January 9, 1920, is the largest and most active sectional historical society in Indiana. It includes the eight "Pocket Counties" of the Southwestern part of the state: Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Spencer, Perry, Dubois, Pike and Gibson. Enrolled among its members are some of our most enthusiastic students and writers of Indiana history.

The Indiana Historical Commission herewith publishes the *Proceedings* of the February meeting in 1923. Authors of papers alone are responsible for the views, opinions and conclusions expressed therein. It is to be hoped that a complete report will likewise be kept of all future meetings of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society, including a copy of all papers read and records presented.

Thomas James de la Hunt, President of the Society, has read and edited the papers herewith included.

HARLOW LINDLEY,
Director Indiana Historical Commission.

October 1, 1923
State House
Indianapolis.

SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded January 9, 1920

JOHN E. IGLEHART, *President Emeritus*

THOMAS JAMES DE LA HUNT, Cannelton, *President*

MRS. CALDER DE BRULER EHRMANN, Rockport, *Secretary*

GEORGE H. HONIG, Evansville, *Treasurer*

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Dubois County:

Miss Genevieve MacDonald Williams, Huntingburg

Mrs. William E. Wilson, Jasper

Gibson County:

J. Roy Strickland, Owensville

Mrs. Ella Cockrum Wheatley, Oakland City

Perry County:

Mrs. Frank Iglehart Odell, Cannelton

Charles D. Schreiber, Tell City

Pike County:

Mrs. M. McC. Stoops, Petersburg

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Posey County:

Mrs. Charles Thomas Johnson, Mount Vernon

Arthur E. Fretageot, New Harmony

Spencer County:

Albert J. Wedeking, Dale

Miss Laura Mercy Wright, Rockport

Vanderburgh County:

Samuel L. May, Evansville

Mrs. William R. Davidson, Evansville

Warrick County:

William L. Barker, Boonville

Mrs. Eldora Minor Raleigh, Newburg

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thomas James de la Hunt, Cannelton, Chairman
Mrs. Calder De Bruler Ehrmann, Rockport, Secretary
Mrs. Hilary E. Bacon, Evansville
Mrs. George S. Clifford, Evansville
Mrs. Charles W. Halbruge, Rockport
John E. Iglehart, Evansville
Mrs. Charles T. Johnson, Mount Vernon
Judge Roscoe Kiper, Boonville
Albert J. Wedeking, Dale

PROGRAM

SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fourth Annual Meeting

Evansville, Indiana, February 28, 1923

Walnut Street Presbyterian Church

Morning Session

Report of Secretary and Treasurer.

Business, New and Old—

Nominations, Appointments, Announcements, etc.

History of Newburgh—Mrs. Eldora Minor Raleigh, Newburgh.

Judge James Lockhart—George R. Wilson, Jasper.

Private Schools in Evansville from 1842 to 1853—Mrs. George S. Clifford, Evansville.

The Lincolns in Spencer County—Miss Ida D. Armstrong, Rockport.

Noon Session—12:15 to 1:30 P. M.

Forum of Chamber of Commerce

John E. Iglehart, President of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society, Presiding

Correspondence between Lincoln Historians and this Society—
President John E. Iglehart.

Afternoon Session—2 to 4 P. M.

At Church

More Lincoln Memories—Mrs. Nancy Grigsby Inco, Rockport.
Read by Mrs. Calder D. Ehrmann.

John Pitcher—Rev. John E. Cox, Evansville.

Moses Ashworth, Pioneer of Indiana Methodism—Mrs.
Charles T. Johnson, Sr., Mount Vernon.

Judge William Prince—Gil. R. Stormont, Princeton.

Tribute to the late Frank B. Posey—Judge E. Q. Lockyear,
Evansville.

Poem—Mrs. Albion Fellows Bacon, Evansville.

Indian Relics—Otto Laval, Evansville.

Report of Nominating Committee; Election of Officers.

Closing Remarks.

Members of the Society and visitors are invited to inspect the Vanderburgh County Museum in the Willard Library, where they will be welcomed directly after the meeting.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOUTHWESTERN INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fourth Annual Meeting

At Evansville, Indiana, February 28, 1923

In the Lecture Room of the Walnut Street Presbyterian
Church

Ten O'Clock A. M.

John E. Iglehart, President, in the Chair

OPENING REMARKS

President John E. Iglehart, Evansville

A year ago I was persuaded over my better judgment to permit my name to be announced as President of this Society for a third year. I have enjoyed very much the work, and the progress of the Society has been so satisfactory that I feel a pride in that which I have done, with other members of the Society; but I gave notice then that I would not serve after the past year, and I give notice now peremptorily that it will be necessary to elect someone else as President of the Society for the coming year. For that purpose I will appoint a Committee on Nomination of Officers: Mrs. George S. Clifford, Evansville; William L. Barker, Boonville; and Miss Genevieve MacDonald Williams, Huntingburg, to be that committee.

The first on our programme is Mrs. Eldora Minor Raleigh, of Newburg, an educated woman, who has a keen historical instinct. Her mother was a pioneer, a sister to the wife of John A. Brackenridge, at whose home Lincoln was a frequent visitor in his young manhood. Mrs. Raleigh gave us a paper a year ago on the Brackenridge Family (printed in Bulletin 16 of the Indiana Historical Commission) which attracted a great deal of attention.

THE EARLY DAYS OF NEWBURGH ON-THE-OHIO

By Mrs. Eldora Minor Raleigh, Newburgh

In compiling this plain, unvarnished tale of my native town, it has been a great pleasure to have the co-operation of many descendants of the pioneers who cleared the ground,

lived their lives of toil, and then passed silently away and were seen no more, their final resting places unmarked by wood or stone.

The year 1803, which witnessed the transfer of the great Louisiana Cession from France to the United States, also witnessed the modest beginning of Mount Prospect or Newburgh, the oldest town in The Pocket.

Late in the seventeen-seventies, John Sprinkle and his wife, Susanna Lawrence, had left their Pennsylvania home to seek their fortune west of the mountains. With them were Grandfather and Grandmother Sprinkle. They probably, in company with others, floated down the Ohio in a flat-boat and stopped at Louisville where they entered land. Not caring to remain there, they emigrated to Tennessee, and then back to Kentucky; this time to Henderson County, where they lived for some time in a block house for protection.

Evidently the spirit of freedom running in their veins caused them to desire a home on free soil, and as the great Northwest Territory lay just across the Ohio, the final move was made, and the village of Mount Prospect was born.

The month we do not know, but it pleases us to believe that it was the spring-time, when Nature was throwing her mantle of green over the hills, that a quaint flat-boat, manned by sturdy river men, brought Grandfather and Grandmother Sprinkle, their son, John, his wife, Susanna, and two small children, Michael and Nancy, around the bend and into a stretch of water, which steamboatmen say is the longest straight line from curve to curve on the Ohio River.

A landing was made near a spring of cool, limped water, and the first family of southwestern Indiana stepped ashore. We can fancy Michael and Nancy playing among the mussel shells, barefooted and sunburned but full of health and joyousness, while the older ones brought from the boat their simple furniture. We can, in our mind's eye see the unloading of flax-wheel, spinning-wheel, loom, pots and kettles and a few dishes. Among the articles of furniture, probably, was a cradle in which eight additional children were rocked to sleep in the years that followed.

And now a heavy article is brought to land. It is a blacksmith's anvil, that harbinger of industry, for John Sprinkle was a blacksmith, and, as Longfellow has written:

" . . Since the birth of time, throughout all ages and nations,

Has the craft of the smith been held in repute by the people.”¹

The boatmen departed, the first fire was kindled from the tinder-box, the drift wood was piled high and little Michael and Nancy left their play to eat their first meal in Indiana.

It is to be regretted that so little is known of the coming. Histories are full of the accomplishments of northern and central Indiana, but silence prevails about the South. The trails were all north of us. Tales of the Wabash and of the district of Vincennes are many. The books abound with them, while the southern tier of counties had few historians to sing their praises. But life must have gone on in much the same manner as in other parts of the territory.

The blacksmith's forge was erected on the side of the hill where the Methodist Church now stands, and a log dwelling was built on a still higher hill. Judge John E. Iglehart now has the honor of owning this land and occupying a house of more recent date on the exact site of the first log cabin in War-rick County. Almost opposite is the Sprinkle graveyard, now owned by Miss Florence and Mrs. S. A. Brentano. Here the old folks rest in peace.

Felty Hay and James Lynn were the next to come. These families, with the Sprinkles, were squatters, necessarily so, for the land was not surveyed until 1805. They owned no land, but no one said them “nay”, and if any prowling Indian peered at them from behind the magnificent oaks or leaning sycamores they knew it not. It was a land of peace! For the red men it had been a hunting ground, not a battle field, and so we have no traditions, no legends to relate. Old Indian graveyards may be pointed out, but they are the resting place of the hunter or the trapper, and not of the scalping savage.

In 1804, the government acquired a title to this land by a treaty made at Vincennes on the 18th of August by the chiefs and head men of the Delaware tribe by which they ceded to the United States their claim to the tract of country lying between the Wabash and Ohio rivers and south of the road leading from Vincennes to the Falls of the Ohio. The Piankeshaws relinquished their claim to the same territory on the 27th of the same month. The land was then surveyed and offered for sale at one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre, but money was scarce, and as the government demanded cash payment for land, no attempt was made to enter any portion

1. Longfellow: *Evangeline*.

of it until the fourth day of June, 1807. The records show that General W. Johnson entered the first tract of land in the present boundary of Warrick County. It comprised 205 acres, and embraced the land on which Newburgh now stands. By 1818 John Sprinkle had become the owner of this land, and on the first day of August he had surveyed and laid off a town of 102 lots, in what is now the west end of Newburgh. In naming the streets, loyalty to the government was shown by the names of Washington, Jefferson, Monroe and Madison with Market thrown in between, and intersecting them are Water, Jennings, Main and Posey. Jennings was named in honor of Jonathan Jennings, the first governor of the state, and Posey in honor of the last territorial governor of Indiana. It is believed that our town is the only one in the state where such respect has been paid to these executives.

Chester Elliott, a noted surveyor, the grandfather of our fellow townsman, Mr. Ferd Curtis, laid off the town lots, and to this embryo city was given the home of Mount Prospect.

The names of those who entered land in what is now included in Ohio Township before 1820 are General W. Johnson, 1807; Felty Hay, Richard Vankirk and Simon Lane, '11; Lewis James, '13; Nathaniel Ewing and William Hancock, '14; Nicholas Boswell and Fred C. Graff, '15; Britain West and John Hale, '16; Adam Snyder, Daniel James and Gaines H. Roberts, '17; John Alexander and William Johnson, '18; William Buckler, William Bullitt, John Miller, Alva Pasco and Ananias Meritt, 1819.

In 1811 a very exciting event took place. The first steamboat on the Ohio was run from Pittsburgh to New Orleans. It was built by Nicholas J. Roosevelt and with its white steam, black smoke and its red fiery sparks spread consternation among our first families, who had not heard of Fulton's wonderful invention. We can imagine the astonishment of Michael and Nancy as this monster passed down the river and disappeared around the bend.

In 1829, Abner Luce, who must have had a love for the beautiful, purchased a large tract of land east of Mount Prospect or Sprinklesburgh as many called it, and started a rival town on the hills. This left a small triangular piece of ground containing about three acres lying between Sprinklesburgh and Newburgh which belonged to Samuel Short, said to have been the first merchant in the town. In 1837, by a special act

of the Legislature, the rival towns including the "flat-iron piece" of ground were consolidated and called Newburgh. The streets of the town on the hills had been named respectively Water, Cross, Circassian, Gray and Elm extending east and west, while those north and south are Middle, Sycamore, Locust, Cypress and Adams. Numerous additions and enlargements to the town were made at various times and Newburgh enjoyed what is now called a boom.

It seems strange that a committee appointed by the Legislature should have ignored the advantages of a location on the river for the county seat, but such was the case, and in 1814 three hundred acres of land, one mile from the Ohio river and four miles east of the present town of Newburgh was selected. The county agent, William Briscoe, advertised a sale of lots, four lots to be reserved for a public square and one lot for a county jail. The jail was built, and the description shows that it was good and strong. The contract for building the log court house was awarded to Daniel Deckrow for the sum of \$290. The town was to be called Darlington, but scarcely was it established as the seat of justice, when in 1818 the General Assembly provided for the removal of the county capital to the center of the county, in what was then a wilderness, and gave to it the name of Boonville.

But Newburgh continued to increase in population and commercial importance. The stores were well patronized by the wealthy Kentucky planters, and it became necessary to establish a ferry. Jacob Keele was granted a license by the county in 1818. In 1824 John Hathaway was licensed to operate a ferry at Mount Prospect at a point below where The Newburgh Tobacco Company is now located. Later a ferry was established at the foot of Sycamore street and operated at various times by Joshua Gray, Samuel MacMurtry, and the Hosman family. The early skiffs have been succeeded by the gasoline launch, but the bell, now hanging from a cottonwood tree, still calls the ferryman to his labor.

For several years the problem of travel was not a serious one to our early citizens. They were intent on clearing the ground and producing food and clothing for their ever-increasing families. There were Indian trails and buffalo trails, but roads suitable for wagons were a long time coming. "The Old Fredonia Road" was the first one really fit for travel. It extended from Fredonia in Crawford County along the southern

tier of counties and entered Newburgh at Circassian street (now called Main street) and joined the state road to Petersburg. This is the origin of State street which was the principal artery for the farmer who brought his produce to the steamboat landing. As nothing was more plentiful than trees a plank road was eventually laid to Boonville, which cost from twelve hundred to fifteen hundred dollars per mile. At certain parts of the road, it was impossible for one team to pass another and much care was required to prevent accidents. It was financed and built by the Warrick County Central Plank-Road Company, whose president was A. M. Phelps. Its object was, of course to bring trade to the town and it was of great value for several years. The cost of the repairs was kept up by toll-gates, at the entrance of Newburgh and Boonville. A pole and sweep closed the road to traffic and it could be opened only by the toll-keeper. A one-armed man by the name of Elijah Stebbins kept guard at the Boonville end.

The advantage Newburgh had as a shipping point soon became manifest, and so great was the travel, and so many the transient guests that hotel accommodations were inadequate although private families were always hospitable. The first tavern was kept by James MacMurtry in 1832. It was afterward bought and operated by Matthew Norwood as the Washington House on the site of the present home of Mrs. John J. Knapp.

In 1841 Joseph L. Spitz erected a hotel on the corner of State and Jennings. It is now occupied by J. W. Fuquay as a department store. This building was planned in Germany. The walls of the basement and first story are twenty-seven inches in thickness. It was called the Exchange Hotel, and was a very popular public house. Of course there was a bar, for at that time all places of "entertainment for man and beast" were required to keep liquor.

Mr. Spitz sold the hotel to Mr. Capella, who had married Theodora Hazen, and Zavin Hazen, her father, for many years ran the hotel. A third story was added, and a wing built on the west side to accommodate the constantly increasing traveling public. The bar was a popular place and the veranda was usually filled with men tilted back in their chairs, and ready to make remarks, so that the Newburgh ladies would not pass the hotel on a windy day for fear their dresses would be blown and their ankles disclosed.

Joseph L. Spitz was the grandfather of Mrs. Otto V. Knapp and Miss Pearl Spitz. After selling the Exchange Hotel, he built another brick hotel on Water street now owned by J. E. Abshier.

And the old tavern bell! Morning, noon and evening it summoned the traveler to the hospitable board and warned the townspeople that meal time had arrived. The children loved the bell, especially when Grandpa Hazen rang it, for he made it say:

"The pig tail's done! Pick it up and run!

The pig tail's done! Pick it up and run!"

In June of 1852 the town was incorporated, and an election was held at the home of Matthew Norwood for members of the town board. There were five wards. William McKinney was elected from the second, Luther M. Miner from the fourth and John B. Carlin from the fifth. Joshua Gray and Thomas F. Bethell received an equal number of votes from the first ward and Chester Bethell and John N. McGill received an equal number from the third ward. There being no choice in these two wards, a special election was held in September, but no record remains of the result.

A mail route had been established through the county in 1812 or '13 from Louisville. Later another mail route led from Evansville to Corydon in Harrison County. The mail was carried on horseback and required two weeks to make the round trip. Both horse and rider were compelled to swim streams which they could not ford, and mail-bags and contents were often soaked. Mrs. J. W. Fuquay tells of meeting in Spencer County a few years ago, a Mr. Dawson who, in 1847, carried the mail from Evansville to Newburgh, to Rockport, to Troy, to Midway to Boonville then made the return trip, changing horses at Midway. In the spring, when the floods occurred, the trip had to be omitted. Mr. Dawson's salary was eight dollars a month.

Uncle Jerry Jordan, the father of Mrs. Eliza Cox, made daily trips on foot to Evansville in the sixties to bring the Evansville *Journal* to his patrons. He left Newburgh at four in the afternoon and returned to distribute his papers at ten the next morning. He also carried the popular magazines of the day: *Harper's Weekly*, *Harper's Bazar*, *Godey's Ladies' Book*, *Peterson's Magazine* and the *New York Ledger*.

Two lines of stages gave daily connection with Evansville. What pleasant recollection we have of the stage drivers: Thomas Price, Mr. Hunt, Samuel R. Weed and Louis Hargrave.

The most prosperous era of Newburgh's existence was from 1856 to 1870. In 1830 it had a population of thirty-seven. In 1868 this number had increased to two thousand. It contained one printing office, six dry goods stores, seventeen grocery stores, four crockery stores, two hardware stores, three drug stores, four large flouring mills two extensive saw-mills, one brewery, one shingle factory, two plow works and wagon factories, one tannery, six boot and shoe factories, three saddle and harness establishments, two tin and sheet iron shops, four millinery shops, one large tobacco stemmery, two establishments for the making of hand-made furniture, two stone cutters, one brickyard.

Pork-packing was one of the leading industries; many hands were employed, and large profits were realized, notwithstanding the fact that any one could go to the pork-house and get all the pigs' feet and hogs' heads he wanted free of charge.

Many business houses were built, principally on Water and State streets. The solid block of eight stores which stood opposite the present E. S. and N. R. R. Station was composed of two-story brick buildings with immense basements for the storage of tobacco, grain, pork, baled hay and other products in readiness for shipment to New Orleans, Louisville or Cincinnati. A never-ending stream of wagons bearing the country products poured into "The Burgh" as the town was familiarly called by the teamsters of Warrick, Dubois and Pike. It was no uncommon occurrence in those days to see twenty steamboats with their noses shoved into the bank, taking on immense cargoes of grain, live stock and tobacco which came from the country within a radius of fifty miles. Day and night the songs of the rousters resounded through the town and died away in echo over the water. Frequently the captain of a large side-wheel steamer would invite the young folks of the town to dance in the luxurious cabin where the boat's orchestra furnished the music.

The late Ewing Lewis, beloved poet of the Evansville *Courier*, listens to the ancient riverman, and says:

“And the tales that the patriarch has to tell
 Are better than story book yarns to me,
 Better than tales of the prairie or sea—
 He tells of the halcyon days of gold,
 When the river was young as it now is old.

Side-wheel steamers of monstrous size
 Graceful as swans out of paradise,
 Plowed this highway of silver then,
 And bands on the deck their melody rolled
 And all was gay in the days of old.

And there were gamblers of grace and skill,
 Ready to play—and ready to kill,
 And the game went on both night and day,
 If coin ran out—why a slave was sold,
 When the river was young in the days of old.

* * * * *

Those were the wonderful days of gold,
 When the river was young as it now is old.”

Of our merchants from 1818 and through the prosperous years that followed we have the names of Abner L. Luce, A. M. Phelps, Lane W. Posey, Jedediah Ewing, William H. Shelby, R. S. A. and D. B. Hazen, Thomas F. Bethell and Bros., Luther M. Miner, Samuel R. Weed, George Fuquay, Sr., John Darby, John H. Dickerson, Charles Dickerson, O. Picou, a Frenchman from New Orleans, E. and G. L. Spencer, C. L. Debruler, Wright & Roberts, John Nester, Edwards & Rogers, C. B. McCormick, George Willerhausen, John J. Knapp, D. F. & S. C. Bates, Folz, Habbe & Co., Peter Cook and John Foster. Druggists were Clayton Bowers, Nat Townsend, J. A. Stout & Co., J. R. Tilman & Son.

William Butterworth, stonecutter, was in great demand for building stone walls and gutters and they have defied the ravages of time for more than sixty years. Frank Macy was an undertaker and cabinet-maker as was also Louis Hulvershorn, Sr. John Fisher made fine parlor furniture; Stokes Garwood and Thomas P. Gunnell made plows and wagons in connection with their blacksmith business. William Carlin was an apprentice to Mr. Gunnell, and in turn taught the business to

John Walker. William Walker Hargrave, our present shoer of horses and repairer of vehicles, was, fifty years ago, learning the trade from Mr. Gunnell.

The most successful merchant in years of service, and returns for money invested was A. M. Phelps, a native of Vermont, who as a young man came to Evansville and laid the nucleus of his fortune by peddling reeds to the housewives of the vicinity for use in their looms. He married Miss Frances Johnson of Evansville, and in 1830, settled in Newburgh and opened a store of general merchandise. He bought everything that the farmer had to sell, and tried to keep everything the farmer needed. Later he built the storehouse on Water street, now the office of the *Newburgh Register*, where for more than forty years he conducted a thriving business.

Roswell Miner of Shelburn, Vermont, came to Indiana while it was still a territory. He settled in Spencer County and was a resident of Rockport when his son, Luther Marshall, was born in 1821. The son married Mary S. McCulla, the daughter of James McCulla, one of the earliest settlers of Boonville, and a veteran of the War of 1812. In the early forties the young couple came to make their home in Newburgh. With Samuel R. Weed, he embarked in the mercantile business, carrying groceries and hardware, and buying all kinds of produce which could be shipped to New Orleans or Cincinnati. He made frequent trips to those cities, and had established a profitable business, when at the early age of thirty-nine he died, leaving a widow and two small children.

Among the makers of Newburgh the name of Bethell stands out prominently. Thomas F. Bethell was the oldest of seven children born to Cloud Bethell, a Baptist minister, and his wife, Rachel Floyd. The father dying, it devolved upon Thomas to assist his mother in rearing the younger children. They were Chester, Warren, Eliza, Union, Tilman, Frank, and Jonathan who died young. Eliza became the wife of Dr. Eli Lewis, and the brothers became successful merchants. They were men of commanding presence. Thomas served in the Mexican War and in the early part of the Civil War, and carried on an extensive business. Warren served in the Mexican War and went to California during the "Gold Craze" of 1849. Chester and Frank also went to California after the Civil War. Union was a fine business man. He was interested in many lines and made a fortune in the tobacco business, only to lose

it through the dishonesty of agents. His son, Union N. Bethell, is one of the most widely known men of the country. His home is in New York, and as manager of the great telephone lines he was of great service to the country during the World War. Frank Bethell, a young brother, is also in New York and has been very successful in business. In honor of his mother, Eva Parrett, he gave to the Newburgh Public Library five houses and lots, asking only that a tablet should be placed in the library in her honor.

One merchant of whom the children were very fond, was F. W. Ratcliffe, a blind man, who kept a book-store and stationery supplies in a part of what is now the Sargent Grocery. He could at any time lay his hand on any article in his stock that was wanted. He knew each child by name and was never known to make a mistake in making change. He was a musician and gave lessons in vocal music. He had a dear little wife to whom he owed much of his success.

A successful town always needs a newspaper, and the first one published in the county was the *Newburgh Chronicle*, R. G. Terry being the editor and publisher. It was Whig in politics, and was in favor of the election of Zachary Taylor to the Presidency. It was succeeded by the *Warrick Democrat*, whose editor and publisher was Calvin C. Frary. In 1857 the office was moved to Boonville, then back to Newburgh, where it was discontinued in 1862. It was *Breckenridge-Democrat* in politics. The Frary family continued to reside in the town, and the little melodeon owned by his charming daughter, Josephine, was a great delight to her friends.

In 1854 the *Weekly Tribune*, a Know-Nothing paper, was established by Isaac Falls and ——— Montagnier as proprietors. After flourishing for more than a year, the good people of the town refused to patronize it and its publication was discontinued. A copy of this paper, bearing the date of July 19, 1856, has been presented to our public library by Mrs. R. C. Brizius, in which it describes itself as "a national American newspaper devoted to politics, agriculture, literature, art, science, morality, news, etc." The marriage of a widow and a widower is noticed in the following manner.

"Married:—By the Rev. M. Hamilton, Mr. Matthew Norwood to Mrs. Elizabeth Osborne.

Our thanks are due to the worthy couple for a generous

share of the usual concomitants to a wedding, and we further hope that they may jog pleasantly along in the jaunting car of matrimony on the broad highway of life, and may they never meet with an obstruction to impede them on so delectable a journey."

John J. Fisher has the following advertisement:—

"Wanted: I want to get a boy apprentice to learn the Cabinet Making business. I want a boy seventeen or eighteen, and would prefer one from the country who possesses a fair education. Recollect, I want a boy, not a fast young man that swears, drinks liquor, chews tobacco &c, but a steady, moral and industrious boy."

Joe Jackson, fashionable barber, the only colored man in Newburgh at that time, advertises hair and whisker dyeing executed with great judgment and skill.

The editor alludes to the fact that A. E. Robertson, Esq., the excellent postmaster, had been removed, and that Simeon Lemasters, Esq., had been appointed in his place.

Zavin Hazen, in a card, informs the public that he has sold his business at the Exchange Hotel to Messrs. Thornburgh & Wyman, who will continue to please the patrons.

Mr. H. L. Pentecost, proprietor of the National Hotel on Monroe St. one door above Water asks for patronage from the public and promises the best of livery service both night and day.

This same Mr. Pentecost had a boy named Fred, who worked in Frary's newspaper office and always had a dirty face. He is now mentioned in the Cyclopedia as George Frederick Pentecost, born in 1842, entered Georgetown University, was chaplain in the army from '62 to '64, filled various pastorates in different parts of the country. In '87 he engaged in Evangelical work in Scotland and afterward went to India on a special mission to the Brahmins. He wrote *Boyhood of Christ*, *Bible Studies* and other works.

Newburgh coal is quoted at six cents.

John B. Handy, Attorney at Law and treasurer of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church respectfully admonishes persons who signed a certain agreement to come in and pay up.

Notice is given of a political meeting at early candle-light on the 22nd to organize a Fillmore and Donelson Club, for

this was the year when three parties were in the field, John C. Fremont being the first candidate of the Republican party and James Buchanan the choice of the Democrats. Thomas P. Gunnell was a delegate to the state convention at Indianapolis, with instructions to use his influence in behalf of Millard Fillmore.

Osage Orange Seed for hedges is advertised by Bowers & Sargeant, druggists.

The *Tribune* records the death of Mrs. Penila Folden Stanley of Henderson County, Ky., aged twenty-nine, the wife of N. G. Stanley, and the mother of four little children: John, Will, Nat. Jr., and George.

Other papers which have been published in Newburgh are the *Leader*, whose editor was George Quigley, the *Tribune*, published by Oscar Martin, the *Newburgh Times* by George Swint, the *Warrick Herald* by Captain J. V. Admire, and the *Newburgh Ledger* by Wm. C. Root and later by Keith & Slaughter.

The *Register*, now appearing every week is edited and published by Albert Ratliff Burns, a lineal descendant of the Hon. Ratliff Boon, who filled many positions of distinction.

CHURCHES.

The first preaching in the town was by the Methodists. The early circuit riders of this part of the country, John Schrader, William Alexander, and ——— Movety visited this settlement and meetings were held in private houses. The home of Daniel Frame was often a place of meeting. It is said that Samuel Youngblood erected the first church in the county in 1822 on his own farm, but that was in Anderson township. Among the early members here were Daniel and Martha Frame, Gaines H. and Catherine Roberts, Susanna and Sarah Sprinkle. In 1826 a church organization was effected, but the meetings were held in schoolhouses until the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was built on Jennings St. in 1841. The Methodist Church was allowed the use of this building until 1845, when their present building was erected at a cost of \$3,500 and in 1851 a parsonage was built at a cost of \$800.

The church is a picturesque building set in the side of Methodist Hill. Coming down the river, it is the first landmark to be seen, its white tower gleaming through the trees. The basement was used for school purposes, and Professor

Durgin's select school was held there for many years after the graded school was built.

Daniel Frame and William Hammond were among the early class leaders, and Noyes White was the first Sunday School superintendent. No organ was used in this church for many years, it not being considered in conformity with the teachings of John Wesley to have a musical instrument in the meeting-house. The minister announced the hymn, told whether it was to be sung in long or short meter, and then proceeded to give it out, line by line. The best singer would get the correct pitch with his "tuning fork" and the entire congregation joined in the singing. Song books were scarce, but no one could complain of not knowing the words, because when one line had been sung, the minister read the next one, and so on to the end.

Among the prominent trustees who stand out from the shadowy past, the following names may be mentioned:

Joshua Gray, who is said to have burned the bricks for the building and was always one of the pillars of the church, Matthew Norwood, Samuel R. Weed, Jonathan Gray, William Frame, Dr. J. N. McGill, Richard Reed, Thomas P. Gunnell and Pole Bottome.

Quarterly meeting was a great event. Everybody prepared for the entertainment of guests. Services began on Saturday, and people in general flocked to hear the Presiding Elder on Sunday, both morning and evening, not neglecting Class meeting Sunday afternoon. Official meeting took place Monday morning. One of our good old ladies always insisted on calling it "The Artificial Meeting." Monday evening was devoted to what was called "Love Feast." Two parsonages have been consumed by fire and the records of the building of the church have been lost to posterity. In obtaining the names of the ministers who have had charge since the building was completed in 1849, Mrs. Dorcas Cutteredge Curtis has been of great assistance.

The first resident minister was Rev. Week. Rev. J. W. Trowbridge is the present pastor and is engaged in the erection of a new church edifice on the corner of Jennings and Middle streets.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Rev. David Lowry and James Ritchey were the pioneer preachers of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in this vi-

cinity. For awhile Mrs. A. M. Phelps was the only member in Newburgh, but through her efforts, an organization consisting of twenty-seven members was effected by Rev. Hiram Hunter in 1839. The territory comprised in this charge included nearly all of Warrick County and a part of Spencer. The first elders were Israel Hemenway and William Underwood. Rev. James Ritchey was appointed to preach to this congregation once a month. In 1841 A. M. Phelps built a church on Jennings street and the next year Rev. Benjamin Hall was directed to serve Newburgh three-fourths of his time. After two years the congregation petitioned the Presbytery for his installation. The petition was granted in 1844 and Rev. Hall became the resident pastor and occupied that position for twenty-two years. His home was the dwelling now owned by Mrs. Toombs on Washington and Main streets.

In the meantime the first church building on Jennings street had been turned over to Delaney Academy, and the present edifice on State street had been erected with A. M. Phelps as the principal contributor.

In 1906 the church united with the Presbyterian Church, under the zealous leadership of Rev. W. J. Darby, who worked enthusiastically for the union of the churches.

The present minister is Rev. W. B. Strong.

THORNTON PLACE.

An interesting institution in connection with the church is Thornton Place, a home for retired Presbyterian ministers and missionaries, built on a beautiful eminence overlooking the Ohio. On this site was the beautiful home of Robert Phelps and his wife, Jennie Bates. After the death of Mrs. Phelps, fire swept the buildings away. The land was bought by Mrs. Helen Dodge Ames, a noted singer of Evansville, and a summer home, called "La Tour", was erected. Later the place was procured through the efforts of the late Dr. W. J. Darby, special representative of the "Ministerial Relief and Sustentation of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.," and an institution having all the conveniences of a modern home was erected. Prominent among those who assisted Dr. Darby in this work were his wife, Mary Belle Lambert, the granddaughter of A. M. Phelps, Mrs. Jennie Glaze, now deceased, and Dr. Mary E. Phelps. It is much to be regretted that Dr. Darby was taken

away in the midst of this work and before his well-made plans for the improvement of the grounds had been completed.

ZION'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH.

Early in the fifties the families of Henry Weihe, Louis Peppmiller, Louis Schumacher, Frank Brizius, Christopher Miller, Philip Herscher, Charles Brizius, and others bought a warehouse of Henry Williams and fitted it up as a church. This building was lost by fire and then meetings were held at the schoolhouse and at private dwellings until 1862, when a lot was donated by A. M. Phelps and the present brick building was erected at a cost of \$2,000. In 1868 the congregation was able to build a brick parsonage at a cost of \$1,400.

The first minister was Rev. Austman. The present incumbent is C. F. Kesting. The Sunday School was organized by F. W. Habbe in 1860, and it is a very flourishing institution. Mr. Fred Frank, a veteran of the Civil War is the oldest member of the church and his two daughters are active in all the good works of the congregation.

ST. JOHN'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

Having no church and no means for building one, the Roman Catholics met at the home of Joseph Weis, Sr., for services. Rev. F. X. Kutassi from Holy Trinity Church, Evansville, offered the first Mass in 1862. In 1863 Father Kutassi selected a site on the corner of Jennings and Market streets and in August, 1866, the cornerstone was laid. On July, 1867, the church was dedicated by the Very Rev. Martin Marty, Order of Saint Benedict. It had a seating capacity of 125. The bell was blessed by Bishop de St. Palais in 1873.

Under Father Charles Wagner, the church was enlarged. For many years the Angelus was rung, morning, noon and evening by Mrs. Philopena Stoll. Through heat or cold, always on time she performed this labor of love until she passed away.

St. Ann's Sodality of this church was organized January 1876, and is the oldest Ladies' Aid in Newburgh.

SCHOOLS.

Chester Elliott, the surveyor, taught the first school in the town early in the twenties. The building was a log barn on the farm of John Sprinkle, and was a subscription school. It

was not until 1824 that any effective law towards establishing a school system was passed, and even then no school could be provided from public funds until the wish of the voters, who at that time were all men, was in favor of the school. Teachers were very poorly paid, and the question of the justice or injustice of taxing those who had no children for the support of schools was a matter of much discussion.

Accounts of the pioneer schools can be read in histories and tales of the state, but many of our early settlers were of New England origin, and education for their children meant much to them.

Teachers were brought and subscription schools flourished. A few of the names that have been remembered are Rebecca Ewing, Martha Waite, Mrs. Harriet Fish, Vina Stuart, Carrie Morgan who could teach drawing as well as spelling, and many others.

DELANEY ACADEMY.

With a laudable desire to promote the great cause of education, the Indiana Presbytery in 1842 founded an academy which was named Newburgh Cumberland Presbyterian Academy, but the name was soon changed to Delaney Academy in honor of Rev. Henry F. Delaney, a talented and eminent minister of Morganfield, Kentucky.

A charter was obtained from the State Legislature, and through the generosity of A. M. Phelps a building, grounds, library and apparatus were secured. The building was on Jennings street. It contained seats and desks and a pulpit, and for many years was the only place for preaching and public worship in the town. A large basement was ultimately placed under this building and there the library and philosophical apparatus were kept. The primary object of this school was to train young men for the ministry, but admission was not denied to any men or women, seeking for higher education. For ten years the school was maintained in this building, and so great was its fame that Newburgh was considered the educational center of Southern Indiana. Students from the surrounding counties flocked to this Mecca of learning.

Trustees were chosen from different localities on account of the interest they were known to take in the cause of education.

In 1853, the new Cumberland Presbyterian Church having been erected on State street, the school was moved to the base-

ment of this church, and for four years it continued with such success that it outgrew its quarters, and A. M. Phelps built a two-story brick building upon a beautiful site at the edge of town, and the school was removed to its new quarters. The course of study in the Academy varied at different times. Besides the studies usually pursued in the common schools there was a regular scientific course. Latin and Greek were taught and much attention was given to English Composition and Elocution. There was an excellent Literary Society, which met once every week for debate and the cultivation of oratory.

Delaney Academy was also a training school for teachers. At one time there were in training twenty-six young ladies and gentlemen who had been teaching in the common schools, and were attending the Academy to improve themselves in the teaching profession. The hotels and boarding houses were filled with students. The Principals were college graduates and had experience in the work of instruction.

In 1867, the school was discontinued. Why? Lincoln, Illinois, pledged a large amount of money and property to obtain the college. The citizens of Newburgh, hoping to retain it, subscribed twenty-five thousand dollars, but the Synod voted in favor of Lincoln, and we lost our prestige as a college town. It is something to be born in an intellectual atmosphere, and the people of Newburgh would not be satisfied with the mediocre teachers who had charge of the free schools, but as was said before, teachers were brought from the older states where education was no novelty. Among those was Professor Henry Brewster Durgin who was a lineal descendant of Elder Brewster of "Mayflower" fame. Professor Durgin was a graduate of Bowdoin College, Maine, the alma mater of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Mr. Durgin was very strict; he adhered to Solomon's advice, and told his pupils that he had eyes in the back of his head, which they firmly believed. His favorite epithet for the slow one was "ignoramus". Mr. Durgin married Miss Mary Anderson, the daughter of Bailey Anderson II, and at his death left two sons, Eugene and George, who have since passed away. In 1868, under the direction of Township Trustee, Dr. W. W. Slaughter, a three-story brick building for a graded school was built, but Prof. Durgin's select school continued for many years.

The Delaney Academy building and grounds were sold and

the home and green-houses of Mr. Otto Kuebler now occupy the former site of the once famous institution.

NEWBURGH IN TIME OF WAR.

In peace and prosperity, without a thought of anything military except the attendance which was required at the "General Training days," when all able-bodied men of proper age met at the county seat and were drilled in military tactics, time passed on, but at the outbreak of the Mexican War, Indiana soon furnished her quota of troops and a full company, organized at Newburgh with Thomas F. Bethel, the father of our Eliza Bethell Warren, as captain could not be credited to this state, and was known as Company I of the Sixteenth Regiment of Kentucky Volunteers. This company embarked for New Orleans where a steamer took them to the mouth of the Rio Grande. They did duty at Camargo and Camp Meier and marched to Monterey, but arrived too late to take part in the battle. The regiment remained in Mexico, doing provost duty until the close of the war and peace was declared.

Things military being settled, business men worked with renewed energy and a time of great activity prevailed. Beautiful homes were built on the hills so substantial that only fire or flood has ever conquered them. Among them are the homes built by A. M. Phelps, Thos. F. Bethell, Jacob Sargeant, Union Bethell, Luther M. Miner, Dr. Alexander H. Petit, Thomas P. Gunnell, Joshua Gray, Stokes Garwood, Joshua and William McKinney, James McGill and others.

"The Old Stone House", built by Judge Gaines Roberts in 1838 and now used as a Sanitarium by Dr. I. C. Hollinger, is built entirely of stone. The walls of the basement are four feet in thickness; those of the upper stories being two feet. The door and window facings are of solid rock. On each end of the house are mammoth stone chimneys. This house was built when wolves were more plentiful in this section than people. It faces the majestic Ohio, and much of Judge Roberts' wealth came from the sale of cord-wood to the passing steamers. He with his bride, Catherine Upp of Henderson, Ky., early in the year 1814 went to housekeeping in a log cabin on the land which he later purchased from the government in 1817. Nine children were born, of whom two, Rufus R. and Eliza A., twin brother and sister, lived to raise large families.

The title of Judge was not an empty one. He served as State Representative, as State Senator, one term as Associate Judge, and one term as Common Pleas Judge. Gaines Homer Hazen, late editor of the Boonville *Enquirer* and Mrs. E. A. Torrance of Evansville (Theodora McGill) are among the descendants of Judge Roberts.

The "Weis House" on Jennings and Market streets is the oldest brick house in town. The timbers were not hewn, but cut the correct length and put together with wooden pins. The rafters are the trunks of small trees, the joists of larger trees, hewn on one side to put the floor on, which proves that saw-mills had not penetrated this region. The bricks were brought by river on flat boats. Joseph Weis, Sr., the builder of this house came to Newburgh from Evansville in 1839. He was a harness maker and taught his sons the trade. Joseph Weis, the oldest person living here at present who was born in the town and has always made his home here was born in that house in 1847.

The first blow to the commercial prosperity of the town came from the opening of the Wabash and Erie Canal. The farmers found a ready market for their hogs in the northern cities and pork-packing ceased to be one of the leading industries.

THE CIVIL WAR.

When the news of the fall of Fort Sumter reached Newburgh great excitement prevailed. Being on the border line and having such intimate business relations with the southern states, much discussion took place concerning the probable result of South Carolina's deed. But the call of duty met with a prompt response and military companies were organized. In this sketch it is impossible to give the names of the members of the Newburgh Home Guards, the Newburgh Greys, the Jackson Artillery and the Newburgh Blues. In the summer of 1861 two companies of volunteers were organized at Newburgh, and were the first troops from Warrick County to enter the active service. They were companies H and I of the Twenty-fifth Regiment. Company H was led by Captain John H. Darby, Lieutenants Dorus Fellows and Charles Lucas. Dorus Fellows was promoted to the rank of captain and died June 21, 1862, from wounds received at the battle of Shiloh. He lies in Myrtle Ridge Cemetery or as it is more generally

known, the Old Cemetery. The first officers of Company I were Thomas F. Bethell, Captain; John R. Bell and John T. Johnson, Lieutenants. Both of these companies took part in hard service and bore their share of the struggles. Captain Bethell resigned at St. Louis and James S. Marks was chosen as his successor. Our boys led the attack on Fort Donelson and participated in the battle of Shiloh.

THE RAID ON NEWBURGH.

Early in the war the Exchange Hotel had been converted into a hospital for sick and wounded soldiers. Stores of guns, ammunition food supplies and hospital stores were in the building. On the 18th of July, 1862, Gen. Adam Johnson who had commanded a Confederate brigade with Morgan in his raid into Ohio crossed the Ohio in broad daylight with thirty-two men in skiffs and ferry-boat, captured the town and the hospital, paroled the soldiers, took possession of the military stores which they carried to their boats and re-crossed the river without a gun having been fired. During the time that guards had been stationed at various points, my mother started to the grocery but stopped when she saw the sentry at the corner of our stone wall. He turned, and she recognized a Kentucky man whom she had seen when visiting her numerous friends across the river. What are you doing here, Phil Hicks?" she said. "Nothing, except guarding your town," he responded, and then with Kentucky gallantry, he added, "We didn't come here to molest the ladies. Pass on!"

Johnson informed the citizens that he had a battery planted on the opposite shore and if any resistance was shown the town would be shelled and destroyed. This artillery planted on the Kentucky shore was a "Quaker Gun," perfectly harmless, but it served its purpose of scaring the people. Many mothers gathered their children and valuables together and stole out of the town.

As soon as the last "guerilla" had disappeared from view great excitement prevailed, and messengers were sent in every direction. The wildest rumors were circulated. Col. Daniel F. Bates, commanding the Third Regiment Indiana Legion was soon on hand, and Evansville having been notified of the invasion by a messenger who ran his horse to death to carry the news, fired up two steamers, the *Eugene* and the *Courier* and

with infantry and artillery on board proceeded up the river. Col. W. E. Hollingsworth, commanding the Second Regiment Indiana Legion, proceeded by the nearest land route. Nothing was effected by either of these expeditions except the destruction of the boat in which the Rebels had crossed and re-crossed the river.

Two men, citizens of Newburgh, were denounced as rebel sympathizers and shot. Their names were H. H. Carney and Elliott Mefford.

The capture of Newburgh by the Confederates gives us a prestige shared by no other town in The Pocket, and at the time made a very decided impression. The *London Times*, in a lengthy article reported the "capture of the great tobacco port of Henderson, Kentucky, and the subsequent capture of Newburgh, an important town north of the Ohio river," and in consequence the price of tobacco immediately rose.

The war came to an end, but business waned. Railroads were built, but we were left out. Several roads were projected on paper but something always happened to prevent their completion. Formerly streams of wagons poured into the town; now the trade was diverted into other channels. Steamboats fought valiantly to save the trade, but after a ten-years struggle they were forced to the bank for want of patronage. Store buildings were closed; warehouses were empty; our young men were forced to seek employment elsewhere. Many of the old families moved away, their places and their homes have been taken by strangers, and the Newburgh of by-gone memories is only held in the hearts of the few who have remained; yet those who have gone from us have ever held Newburgh in their heart of hearts. The late Charles Armstrong, attorney-at-law in Boonville, was born and reared here. Often he would be found on Water street and would say, "I was so homesick to see the river, I had to come back to the old town." Herbert Slaughter, after many years' residence in California, came home for a visit and cried because the giant walnut tree that had stood on the highest point of Methodist Hill, had been removed.

And what about Michael and Nancy whom we left playing in the sand in 1803? Michael's son, Benjamin F. Sprinkle, married Tabitha Pasco, the granddaughter of Dr. Alva Pasco, who was the first physician to locate at Boonville. Their

daughter, Mrs. Nellie Sprinkle Hooker, is the direct descendant of two of the oldest families in the county.

Nancy married a Kentuckian of Henderson by the name of Gay. Susanna, a younger sister married Mr. Corwin, a large land owner living near Center Church. Later they moved to Newburgh and lived in the old Sprinkle home. Their oldest daughter, America Corwin Noel, was the mother of Mrs. Sallie Noel Cook of this place. Another daughter is Mrs. Katherine Meginnies of Evansville; Aleck is a resident of Boonville and Mary is the widow of Captain John H. Darby, and lives in Evansville.

To stir your interest and warm your hearts to the early days of Newburgh this sketch has been written. Every county and every township is rich in history and it is our duty to preserve it for the future generations. May we add a stanza to Paul Dresser's beautiful song, "On the Banks of the Wabash?"

Let us sing about another lovely river,
Flowing swiftly as it goes towards the sea;
On its banks the willows cast their mournful shadows
Where the Indian once paddled his canoe.
Long years have passed since La Salle and his Frenchmen
Called this river by the name of "Beautiful"
And on its placid bosom came our fathers
To plant homes on Indiana's lovely hills.

Chorus—

And we'll sing about the Ohio at Newburgh,
The dear old stream we love so well to see;
We will sing about the moonlight on the waters
At Newburgh, on the Ohi—Ohio.

President Iglehart: The next paper on the program is by George Robert Wilson, of Jasper and Indianapolis. He has all the resources for historical production and is a comparatively young man yet. He was a surveyor in Dubois County, where Logan Esarey was born and where Thomas James de la Hunt was born; three of the historical writers of Indiana. I asked him to write to Judge Lockhart who was a Congressman from this district, who disappeared from the

stage before I, even as a young man, came to know him; but I knew of him.

[Mr. Wilson's sketch of Judge James Lockhart was so complete, filling thirty-eight typewritten pages, and followed by an exhaustive bibliography and thirty-eight pages of supplementary material, that it has been decided to publish it as a separate monograph and it will be issued as No. 1 of Vol. 8 of the Indiana Historical Society Publications—Editor.]

President Iglehart: The next paper is on "Private Schools in Evansville from 1842 to 1853," by Mrs. George S. Clifford.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN EVANSVILLE FROM 1842 TO 1853.

By MRS. GEORGE S. CLIFFORD (EMILY ORR), Evansville.

Two contrasting pictures come before my mind as I write: The pioneer log cabin school of 1821, the stately standard college just finished in 1922. Between them stretches a hundred years of slow evolution. Before it is too late, it may well be the duty of the Vanderburgh County Historical Society to trace, step by step, the history of education in our county and our city. Even now, original sources of information are few—the reminiscences of former citizens, preserved in the archives of the society; some newspaper clippings and advertisements; local histories (often unreliable); and the uncertain memory of three score and ten, still living; scraps of information here and there may, however, be pieced together by careful study into a connected though necessarily meagre story. In orderly progression we see the township and village schools, the private academies and seminaries, the free schools, the high school, and the college; each chapter, a stepping-stone to something higher.

The township schools beginning in 1819 have been fully and graphically depicted by J. W. Davidson in a commercial history of Vanderburgh County published in 1889.

Personal reminiscences of former pupils are in the archives of the society, describing the village school of Daniel Chute and the stern rule of "Daddy Knight" but the full history of these schools can probably not now be written.

Distance may lend enchantment to the view, and imagination clothe the naked facts with glory, but the effort of our forefathers toward the higher things of life seems to me a heroic story and I cannot resist the temptation to quote a few of the facts as a preface to the special topic assigned me by

the President, which is the private schools which precede the inauguration of the public school system in 1853.

"In 1818 the Board of Commissioners for the new county of Vanderburgh (just set aside) established a public warehouse, assessors, superintendents of school sections, and overseers for the poor." In the dawn of our history there was created the light of commerce, education and charity, with which to dispel the gloom of the wilderness. The earliest school was built the following year in 1819 of unhewn logs, the seats, logs on blocks of wood, the floor of dirt. The site was in Perry Township, where the present Orphan Asylum stands. To this country school the sturdy boys of the little settlement of Evansville trudged two miles daily for a few months of the year. The teacher was Thomas Trueman, a sailor of the Revolutionary War, a rude, eccentric individual who gained his sustenance by hunting, trapping and trading. Trueman's method of punishment was to use the rod across the knees as the pupils sat on the puncheon benches. The buckskin breeches aprons worn by the pupils helped to mitigate the Ancient Mariner's blows.

There were philanthropists also in those days. "About two miles from the city in Center Township and on the south slope of the hill, now Locust Hill Cemetery, half hidden in an apple orchard stood the little brick house of Father Kilblock, an estimable old gentleman, who made his living as an itinerant clock tinker and taught, for the love of it, three or four months in the year. It was the first free school in the county and was kept open until the public school system was established."

One reads with amusement the dismissal of one of the early Perry Township school teachers, a well-educated eastern man, for introducing a blackboard, which to the conservative trustees was "a device to enable the teacher to escape labor." One morning when the teacher, accompanied by some pupils opened the clapboard door of the school there was found written on the board in a bold hand the following:

"Any man of common sense would throw the blackboard over the fence."

At the end of the term, teacher and blackboard had to go. For information concerning other township schools I refer you to Mr. Davidson's able article.

The pioneer teacher of the city of Evansville was George Thompson, who taught in a little log cabin situated near the corner of First and Vine streets in the year 1821. Soon after this, William Price taught school in the old Baptist Church near Mulberry and First streets. A picture of this old log house, taken just before it was torn down a few years ago, is still preserved.

The years 1821 and those which immediately followed were years of commercial disaster and wide-spread want. Fevers were prevalent. The little settlement of Evansville comprised about 300 inhabitants, with tax assessment of somewhat over \$100. Nothing daunted by discouraging circumstances, this little company began that year of 1821 a brick court house, a brick school house, a church organization (Presbyterian) and a newspaper, the *Evansville Gazette*. Still in the plans of our ancestors, law and order, education, religion and the press advanced hand in hand.

The little red brick school house has been immortalized in song and story. Such an one was built in Evansville in 1821, on the public square at Third and Main streets. It was presided over by Daniel Chute, a graduate of Dartmouth College at a salary of \$300 a year. He was small of stature, of deep piety and kindly heart. His portrait which hangs in the Walnut Street Church (formerly the Little Church on the Hill) shows a mild, sweet, saintly face. "Father" Chute, as he was called, was a faithful elder in the Little Church on the Hill and leader of its choir. The story is told that in opening exercise at his school, he prayed standing and with eyes open, a long fishing cane in his hand, that he might strike on the shoulder any mischievous boy; interrupting his prayer for the moment with the spiritual ejaculation, "Woe be to you, John." In 1830 Rev. J. R. Barnes writes, "The course of education was mostly in the hands of good Elder Chute, who was for some years the chief if not the only Pedagogue." Mrs. S. G. Evans recalls entering his school with her sister at five and six years of age. They sat each on a knee of the teacher who was also a loved neighbor, while he gave out words from the spelling book, jumping down to take the place of one who missed the word and must therefore go to the bottom of the class.

In 1831 Miss Philura French came to the little Ohio river settlement with her brother-in-law, Rev. Calvin Butler, pastor

of the Little Church on the Hill. She taught school in a primitive log cabin on the Princeton Road for three years until her marriage to Mr. John Shanklin, prominent merchant of the place. One who loved her writes, "her interest in the young people and her influence upon them was very remarkable."

In 1849 her oldest son James was the only boy in college (Bloomington) from Evansville and was largely prepared by his mother. She had the honor of starting the first Sabbath School in Evansville, in the Little Church, which was looked upon as a very doubtful innovation on the sanctity of the Sabbath. About 1842 and for ten years following there sprang up numerous private schools throughout The Pocket ambitiously called colleges, male academies and female seminaries. What little I can gather about such schools, is gleaned from the annual advertisements of the *Journal* of those years, a full file of which is preserved in the Willard Library, awaiting the modern Aladdin with his filing cabinet to unlock its treasures. Some effort of the kind was made by Mr. J. W. Davidson during the Centennial year and I have fallen heir to his record on Education. A perusal of the advertisements shows these schools to have been of a high order, offering a classical education and cultural studies under well trained teachers. They bear witness also to the intelligence and enterprise of the early inhabitants and show the church to have been a community center and its pastors, leaders secular as well as spiritual.

The following advertisement in the *Journal* of November 24, 1842, indicates the establishment of possibly the first school in Evansville which fitted a student for higher education.

School Notice. New Arrangements.

"The next quarter of the School on the Episcopal lot will commence on Monday the 19th of December, under the united instruction of Rev. A. H. Lamon and Mr. Wm. Vaux. Instruction given in English studies at \$2.50 to \$3.50 per quarter. Latin and Greek will be taught at \$8.00. N. B. There will be two departments, male and female. There will be a deduction in the above rates to all the scholars belonging to the district. Nov. 24, 1842.

(Rev. A. H. Lamon was the rector of the newly organized St. Paul's Episcopal Church from 1836-1844. Rev. William Vaux an Englishman serving in like capacity during 1845.)

There is also a like notice of August 31, 1843.

School Notice.

"The subscriber takes pleasure in announcing to his patrons that he has secured the service of Mrs. Young of Madison, Ia., for the Female Department of this school. Mrs. Young comes well recommended and has had ten years of experience in teaching. She will take charge of the school next quarter, to commence on the 13th of September.

N. B. The Male Department is under the charge of Mr. J. A. Findley an experienced teacher who will commence the next quarter on the 11th of September. The terms per quarter will vary from \$2.50 to \$4.00.

A. H. Lamon (Ep. Min.)

August 31, 1843.

July 23, 1843, we find the first boarding school for young ladies mentioned:

Female Seminary.

"The fall term of the Evansville Female Seminary, will commence on the Third Wednesday (20th of September next).

J. R. Barnes, Principal.

A like notice of August 15, 1844 reads:

"The Fall term of the Evansville Female Seminary will commence on Wednesday the 11th of September next. Tuition from \$12.00 to \$18.00 per year. Board without washing \$1.25 per week.

August 15, 1844.

J. R. Barnes, Principal.

The principal, named Rev. Jeremiah Barnes, was a graduate of Yale. He stopped off at Evansville in 1836 to avoid traveling on the Sabbath and finding the congregation of the Little Church on the Hill without a pastor consented to remain. He built a few years later at the corner of Third and Chestnut streets a house to accommodate his little family and to afford room for this Female Seminary. His wife survived

only a year and he married again, his second wife proving an admirable assistant, having been formerly a teacher in a Seminary in the East. Of her influence in the school her loyal husband writes thus: "My pupils will long remember her gentle ways, her earnest morals and religious instruction."

In the *Journal* of September 28, 1843, Mr. Wurtz of New Orleans advertises:

"Special lessons in German, French and Latin."

Was Mr. Wurtz also a traveler, who by chance stopped off a day and was charmed to stay and cast in his lot with the little band of pioneers?

That same year, ont to be outdone by the Episcopalians and Presbyterians, the Methodists opened a school in the basement of their Chapel. The advertisement is dated August 22, 1844.

"Mr. M. Trafton will open a school on Monday the 2nd day of September next in which will be taught all the branches of a thorough English Education together with the Latin and French languages. As he will have the assistance of his sister, Miss Anna Trafton, he will receive the youth of both sexes, and every suitable age even those who have attended only primary schools. The terms are as moderate as any other good school in the town. The above school will be taught in the basement of the Methodist chapel, in a room already fitted up for the purpose."

Journal, August 22, 1844.

It was the age of lyceums and lectures and the enterprising town of 1844 organized one of her own.

I quote from an editorial of the *Journal*.

"We call attention of our readers to the Evansville Lyceum, the organization of which will be found in below. An institution of this sort, all will agree is needed in our town and we sincerely hope that it will merit incouragement and success.

"At a meeting of the citizens of Evansville held at the office of Messrs. Battell and Ingle Saturday evening Oct. 19th, 1844, for the purpose of organiz-

ing a Lyceum the following gentlemen were elected officers:

President, Judge C. I. Battell.

Vice Pres., James Cawson, Esq.

Dr. G. B. Walker.

Board of Managers:

John Mitchell, G. Maghee, Dr. Wm. H.

Stockwell, R. W. Dunbar, Wm. H. Elliott,

James Laughlin, H. P. De Bruler, E. B.

Coleman, John Shanklin.

Board of Censors:

James E. Blythe, John Ingle, Conrad Baker.

Secretary, James E. Blythe.

Treasurer, John J. Chandler.

Order of Lectures for Nov. 1844.

1st week Nov. 6th Wm. Newton Esq.

2nd week Nov. 13th Rev. J. R. Barnes.

3rd week Nov. 20th Richard Owen Esq.

4th week Nov. 27th Judge C. I. Battell.

At a meeting of the Board of Managers John Mitchell was appointed President. G. Maghee Secretary. On motion resolved, that for the purpose of defraying the contingent expenses of the lectures, tickets will be sold to the gentlemen for 50 cents, which will admit him to the series of lectures for the winter and ten cents will admit him to a single lecture. Ladies are invited to attend free of charge."

Was this a sample of old time gallantry, or did the ladies of 1844 need some such inducement to lure them from their firesides?

Notice of first lecture follows:

"A lecture will be delivered before the lyceum on Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock at the Court House by Wm. Newton Esq. Those desirous to attend can obtain tickets by applying at the store of John

Shanklin, Wm. Caldwell, W. & C. Bell or J. H. Maghee & Co.

Journal October 31, 1844.

Nothing illustrates to me more fully the dearth of distracting entertainment at that day, than the advertisement of thirty consecutive lectures on Grammar, in the *Journal* of August 14, 1845. It must have taxed the ingenuity of this forerunner of Extension Courses, to interest and hold an audience on such a weighty subject. Oh, the times and the manners!

Grammar Lectures.

"The undersigned will commence a second course of lectures on this important branch of Education on Monday Evening next and continue thirty evenings. Terms \$3.00 per scholar to be paid at the expiration of the term. Those who doubt the utility of this system will please call any or every evening of this week and see what has been done. For the benefit of those who cannot attend the evening class, I will teach a class every afternoon."

August 14, 1845.

G. H. Spencer.

Another such special course we find advertised in the *Journal* of February 21, 1846, which is quaint in its phraseology and savors of some more modern methods of advertising.

Notice.

"I will give a lesson on the Lancaster System of Geography at the Court House tomorrow evening (Friday the 13th) at early candle lighting for the purpose of making up a class. I proffer to teach as much as can be learned in six months on the common plan, in fifteen days for two dollars."

Wm. Gates.

Lectures on Chemistry are announced in the *Journal* of November 16, 1848.

"Rev. C. A. Foster announces a course of lectures on Chemistry to be given in the brick school room

next to the Episcopal Church. Five dollars for the course."

To return to the schools:

In the *Journal* of May 28, 1846.

"Mrs. A. E. Gorsuch proposes to open a seminary for young ladies in Evansville on Monday the 4th instant if sufficient patronage be obtained. The design is to establish a permanent institution in which a regular course of studies will be taught. Should it be found requisite a competent assistant will be procured. The terms of the institution will be as follows:

Preparatory Dept. \$2.50; Geography, Grammar and Arithmetic, \$3.50; Algebra, Geometry, Astronomy, Botany, Mental and Moral Philosophy, \$5.00; French and German Languages, Music, Drawing, and Painting \$5.00."

A printed monthly report card sent to the parents of Wm. Halleck February 25, 1847, and signed A. E. Gorsuch, instructress E. F. Institute, has come into the possession of the Vanderburgh County Museum among other papers. Marks are given on perfect, imperfect and very bad lessons, on attendance, late or absent; on violation of rules; and on general conduct. The report preserved is exceptionally good, bearing in writing also this addition—Bright marks 2601.

A Medical College was established in Evansville in 1846 following the organization of a Medical Society in 1845. The notice of election of trustees is given in the *Journal* of February 19, 1846.

"On the 2nd of Feb. 1846, at an adjourned meeting of the Evansville Medical Society the following named gentlemen were elected Trustees of the Evansville Medical College, Conrad Baker, Hon. C. I. Battell, Willard Carpenter, Jas. G. Jones, James E. Blythe Sr., Dr. F. Muhlhausen, Isaac Casselberry, John T. Walker, B. V. Teel and John R. Wilcox."

John R. Wilcox, Secretary.

In the *Journal* of August 24, 1843, the Vanderburgh Bible Society advertises:

"German and English Bible can be had at Depository in J. M. Caldwell's store on Main St."

(Notice of School Books.)

A private High School with tuition seems an anomaly but such an one was proposed in the following notice:

"The undersigned having come to Evansville at the request of a number of the friends of Education to engage in teaching, would inform the citizens in Evansville and the vicinity that he will open a High School for boys in the lower story of the Court House on Monday the 28th inst. at 9 o'clock where instruction will be given in the following branches and at the following rates:—

Rhetorical reading, Penmanship, History, Geography, English, Grammar and Arithmetic at \$4.00 per quarter of eleven weeks each. Exercises in Analysis, Composition and Declamation, Algebra, Geometry, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, \$6.00 per quarter. Latin and Greek Language, Trigonometry, Elements of Surveying and higher branches of Mathematics, \$8.00 per quarter. It is the design of the teacher to establish a school on a permanent basis, which shall prepare young men for professional or other business, who may not want to take a full college course or to prepare those who may for advanced standing in the best colleges and universities. A more extended notice of the school and of the teachers and of the books used will be given as the case may require. At present it will be sufficient to mention as the best class books, Davies Course in Mathematics throughout, Andrews introductory books in Latin and Anthon's in Greek, Butler's Rhetorical Reader. Expenses for the rent of the school room and fuel to be added to the bills of tuition, which are to be paid by the end of each quarter."

Journal August 22, 1846.

J. Faries.

Mrs. Lura (Fellows) Heilman recalls her mother Mary (Erskine) Fellows, attending a private school for young ladies in 1847-1850 kept by two well educated cultured women, the Misses York, who came here from the East. "Judged", she says, "by the standard of that time, the school was an unusually good one, and attracted students from out of town. They gave instruction in a large number of subjects, considered suitable for young ladies. I am sure of two: Astronomy and English Literature. One of them also gave drawing lessons."

Early in the fifties the Sisters of Providence opened a school for girls called St. Joseph Academy in the Griffith home at the corner of Second and Sycamore streets, next door to the Church of the Assumption. Sister Anastasia, who was the Principal, died recently at an advanced age. The school flourished during the years immediately preceding the organization of a Public High School and was attended by the daughters of prominent Protestant as well as Catholic families. Copy books in beautiful script, pencil sketches and fine needlework, still preserved by their children, bear witness to the excellence of the teaching in these "ladylike accomplishments." A school for younger children both Irish and German was held in the basement of the adjoining church.

We may well wonder at the large number of schools at this time, and the high standard of teaching maintained. They had much to do with the future prosperity of our city and county.

The last one of note in the period assigned me was advertised thus in the *Evansville Journal* of November (—), 1847.

Male Academy and Female Seminary.

"Myron W. Safford gives notice that the above named institutions will commence the winter quarter the last Monday of November, 1847. He will do all the work of the Academy. Mrs. L. M. Safford, assisted by E. F. Morton and S. C. Bowden will do the Seminary work. The academic covers Primary and Higher English Languages, Algebra and Geometry. The Seminary work—Primary Studies, Higher English, Latin, French and Piano-forte music. Tuition

\$3 to \$8 per quarter. Board for Ladies \$1.50 per week."

Among the treasured possessions of an aunt of mine, Martha Orr, former pupil of Mr. Safford, I found an old scrap-book with newspaper clippings, published at the time of his death, giving fully his biography, while a catalog of the school for 1850-1851 gives the list of pupils and details concerning the curriculum.

Adding to this, bits of reminiscences of surviving teachers and pupils, set forth a picture which seems worthy of preservation of early school life in the little city of Evansville.

Scanning the list of pupils, one recognizes the names of merchants, lawyers, editors, preachers, statesmen, philanthropists—who, moulded into character by this Yankee schoolmaster, became the founders and leaders of the city, that was yet to be. Well may we pause to consider the man, and his methods, who could so impress his ideals upon his generation.

Myron W. Safford was born among the rugged hills of Vermont, January 18, 1812, in the town of Cambridge,—its very name suggestive of academic tradition. He was the son of Captain John and Elizabeth (Montague) Safford and a grandson of General Samuel Safford of Bennington, Vermont, who served as Lieutenant-Colonel in the Revolutionary Army and as Brigadier-General of the Vermont Militia. He was twenty-three years a member of the Governor's Council and for a quarter of a century Chief Judge of the Bennington County Courts.

Myron Safford was graduated at Middlebury College in 1839, studying Theology at Andover Theological Seminary the following year. Lured by the fame of Dr. Lyman Beecher of Lane Theological Seminary at Cincinnati, Ohio, the training school of the progressive New School branch of the Presbyterian Church, he came West and after a year of study there, was licensed to preach in 1841. Cincinnati was then a center of business and culture, destined by all known signs to become the great metropolis of the West.

For several years he supplied destitute churches in Kentucky, with his home at Morganfield. Having, however, inherited a frail body and a weak voice, he soon gave up preaching, and at the solicitation of the citizens of Morganfield, he

took charge of the Academy there, where he taught for six years.

On September 7, 1842, he married at Shawneetown, Illinois, Lucretia Parsons Morton, eldest daughter of the Rev. Daniel Oliver and Lucretia Parsons-Morton. She was a niece of Levi Parsons, who went with Pliny Fisk as the first missionaries of the American Board to Syria, and a sister of Levi P. Morton, wealthy New York merchant and banker, afterwards Vice President of the United States. Mrs. Morton was a graduate of Mt. Holyoke Seminary during the Presidency of Mary Lyon, and had come to Morganfield to teach in the Seminary.

How he happened to move to Evansville, I do not know, but a school was opened in Evansville in November, 1847. The family lived in the old Scantlin home on Third Street, between Chestnut and Walnut, with the young women boarders. One of them, Miss Lavinia Scantlin, recalls that the fare was simple and the discipline strict.

The school was held in a two-story frame building, built on a hill of some fifteen feet elevation on the east side of Second Street between Main and Locust Streets. It had been erected adjoining the little Presbyterian Church, to serve as lecture room on Sundays and week nights, and was rented by Mr. Safford for his Academy at a yearly rental of \$35, according to the records of the church of 1849.

Mrs. James Cutler (Loraine Dean) of Evansville, recently deceased, in the 90th year of her age, wrote thus of Mr. Safford in reply to a question of our President concerning Mr. Safford, his appearance, age, traits and work:

"I was employed by him only one year from September 1852-1853 as the opening of the Public Schools caused him to abandon his work here. A casual meeting would give one the impression of an educated gentleman, not strong in character, but a goodness of heart and conscientious endeavor to perform faithfully the duties of life, seemed to be revealed. Was never a visitor in his school but report said he found it difficult to control the conduct of young America even in those days. His wife, a sister of Hon. Levi P. Morton, was literary to a high degree. The last magazine must be read, before any other duty, however pressing, although she was a house-keeper and a mother. Two of her sisters, Misses Morton, were teachers in the Safford School before my coming to

Evansville. While teaching under Mr. Safford's supervision, I was a member of his family and can testify that he performed his part of family life admirably. Always pleasant, even tempered and altogether a very agreeable person to be associated with, save when you wanted advice as to control in the school room; then his reply was 'Do as you see best.' I believe he was a competent, faithful teacher, with a shrinking from collision with pupils. Age unknown, medium height, thin in flesh, in fact the typical schoolmaster of olden times, lacking the belligerent qualities of many."

The tell-tale scrap-book preserves several amusing stories of teachers of the school, which no doubt furnished a bit of gossip for the Sewing Society of the "Little Church on the Hill". One reads—"To assist in the work of the Seminary later came the two sisters of Mrs. Safford, Mary and Martha Morton, twins, handsome of face and possessed of fine accomplishments. About the time of their departure from Evansville, Miss Mary met a Presbyterian minister named Hartpence, who fell in love with her. When he proposed marriage, she told him frankly that she did not believe she was adapted to the life of a minister's wife, but she had a twin sister, who was so much like herself in appearance that their relatives could hardly tell them apart, but who was wholly different in disposition, and who would be exactly the woman for him." Subsequently by the machinations of this match-making sister Mr. Hartpence did meet Miss Martha and married her, moving to Columbia, Tennessee, soon after. Miss Mary returned to the East and married Wm. Grinnell, associated with her brother in the wholesale dry goods business in New York City. Her grandson is now minister in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City.

Miss Caroline Abbott, one of the teachers in the Seminary, was a lovely woman and fine instructor. She afterwards married Dr. Blunt of Mt. Vernon, Indiana. She was a member of the household of H. Q. Wheeler, while in Evansville, who had read law in her father's office in the East.

Miss Rebecca Sophia Clark, principal of the Seminary in 1850, was a sister-in-law of H. Q. Wheeler. After leaving Evansville she attained fame as a writer of girls' books under the nom de plume of Sophie May. Many of the characters in the Prudy books and the Dotty Dimple series were recognized as girls in the Safford School of Evansville, Mary Wheeler,

daughter of H. Q. Wheeler, and Nannie Sorensen (Mrs. W. E. French) being the heroines in Dotty Dimple. She may have been weaving her plots while here, for one of her pupils describes her as dreamy and absent-minded. Miss Edith Reilly says daring pupils taking advantage of her reveries, often slipped out of the low windows to the playground for a game of marbles and back again without her missing them. Mrs. Evans recalls that Sis Baker in mischievous mood one day, crouching low, sneaked past Miss Dean, the near-sighted teacher, and once outside dropped through a coal hole to the cellar below, from whence suddenly issued most unearthly groans, to the consternation of those not in the secret. Upon a second repetition of the offense, Mr. Safford was unwillingly summoned to inflict a most unusual punishment, the flogging of the hand of a girl pupil.

The catalogue of the school of 1850-51, printed on blue-gray paper at the Evansville Job Office, corner of Main and Water Streets, has been preserved. It contains a full list of pupils of that year, as well as the courses offered. As a heading it bears within a frame of fancy scroll design, the motto "A good Education the parents' best legacy." Of the Academy, M. W. Safford is named as Principal, William W. Safford (a nephew) Assistant-Principal, L. H. A. Fleugel, Teacher of German language. Of the Seminary, Miss R. Clark was Principal.

In 1850 there were 105 pupils, an increase of 60% over the previous year, 65 male and 40 female. Of these 19 studied Latin, 11 algebra, 2 Greek and 5 French. A class in astronomy and geometry was promised for the succeeding year. Drawing, painting and music with the use of an instrument, were among the "extras".

In his prospectus to parents, Mr. Safford announces his aim:

"To give instruction to young ladies and gentlemen in what are usually denominated the highest branches, to afford those wishing to teach an opportunity of becoming well qualified for business and aid them in getting good situations and last, though not least, to prepare young men for the regular college course."

The majority of the pupils were residents of Evansville, a town of 5,105 inhabitants; four were from Lamasco; two,

Vanderburgh County; three, New Harmony; one, Bluegrass; one, Mechanicsville; one, Sparta, Illinois. The full list of pupils is here given.

Female Department.

Maria Blisch, Evansville
 Mary E. Boicourt, Evansville
 Ann Clancy, Evansville
 Margaret Clancy, Evansville
 Cassena Duncan, Evansville
 Caroline Emrich, Evansville
 Barbara Emrich, Evansville
 Rosanna Farrell, Evansville
 Nancy E. Foster, Evansville
 Myra Glover, Evansville
 Mary F. Hart, Evansville
 Mary G. Harvey, Evansville
 Madeline Harvey, Evansville
 Maria Herchelmann, Lamasco
 Wilhelmine Herchelmann, Lamasco
 Agnes Hopkins, Evansville
 Nancy Johnson, Evansville
 Ann E. Lawrence, Evansville
 Emily Lister, Evansville
 Mary Miller, Evansville

Lucy Miller, Evansville
 Josephine Mitchell, Evansville
 Mary Morgan, Evansville
 Martha J. Orr, Evansville
 Cora Pentecost, Evansville
 Frances V. Page, Evansville
 Mary E. Page, Evansville
 Emma M. Page, Evansville
 Malvina J. Padgett, Evansville
 Edith Reilly, Evansville
 Lavinia E. Scantlin, Evansville
 Julia Scantlin, Evansville
 Malvina F. Shanklin, Evansville
 Mary Sinzich, Evansville
 Emma Smith, Vanderburgh County
 Helen Wilcox, Evansville
 Sarah Wood, Vanderburgh County
 Sara Woodward, Evansville
 Mary Woolsey, Evansville

Male Department.

John L. Amory, Evansville
 William B. Baker, Evansville
 Lyman L. Barber, Evansville
 Charles Bennett, Evansville
 Telford Bewley, Evansville
 George Boicourt, Evansville
 William H. Boicourt, Evansville
 George B. Boswell, Evansville
 William Caldwell, Evansville
 James Caldwell, Evansville
 Augustus Carlstedt, Evansville
 Henry Clark, Evansville
 John Elliott, New Harmony
 Edward P. Elliott, New Harmony
 Francis Fairchild, Mechanicsville
 John W. Foster, Evansville
 Alexander Foster, Evansville
 James H. Foster, Evansville
 Jacob Haff, Evansville
 Thomas E. Horn, Evansville
 Charles B. Harrington, Evansville
 Napoleon Harris, Evansville
 James Henry, Bluegrass
 Francis Hopkins, Evansville
 George Henson, Evansville
 Henry A. Hugo, New Harmony
 Isaac Hutchinson, Evansville
 John Johnson, Evansville
 William Johnson, Evansville
 James F. Law, Vanderburgh County
 John McDowell, Vanderburgh County
 William P. McDowell, Vanderburgh County

Edward J. McDowell, Vanderburgh County
 Edward Mitchell, Evansville
 David A. Neal, Sparta, Ill.
 James L. Orr, Evansville
 Edward Parvin, Evansville
 James Parvin, Evansville
 William A. Page, Evansville
 Frederick Pentecost, Evansville
 Marquis W. Ross, Evansville
 Edward L. Ruby, Evansville
 William W. Safford, Cambridge, Vt.
 William Scantlin, Evansville
 John Scantlin, Evansville
 James Scantlin, Evansville
 John G. Shanklin, Evansville
 George Shanklin, Evansville
 William Sherwood, Evansville
 John Sinzich, Evansville
 William Smith, Evansville
 Gustavus Sorensen, Evansville
 John D. Stockwell, Evansville
 Joseph Terry, Evansville
 William W. Walker, Evansville
 Jesse Walker, Evansville
 Thomas Wheeler, Evansville
 William S. Whitten, Evansville
 John W. Whitten, Evansville
 John R. Wilcox, Evansville
 William H. Wood, Vanderburgh County
 John C. Wood, Lamasco
 Samuel M. Woolsey, Evansville
 George M. Young, Evansville

In a contribution to the 1917 Centennial History¹ of Evansville, Mrs. Phebe Whittlesey Hamlin, writes charmingly of her memory of the school and the girls.

“A CONTRIBUTION TO THE 1917 CENTENNIAL OF EVANSVILLE
 By Phebe Whittlesey Hamlin

Evansville School of Girls Sixty Years Ago.

“In the latter part of eighteen-forty, a private school was

1. Ed.: To date [October 1, 1923] this history has not been published.

established near the corner of Second and Main Streets, just south of the New School Presbyterian Church by a gentleman, Prof. Safford. Two teachers were employed. Miss Abbot, since Mrs. Blunt of Mt. Vernon, had charge of the higher education of the young misses, and Miss Loraine M. Dean of the primary grade.

"The public schools were established about the same time but had not yet become popular. All parents who could afford the tuition entered their daughters into the Safford School. The rival school was the parochial school taught by the sisters of the Roman Catholic Church.

"With the tenacity of childhood's memory to retain early impressions I can at this late date recall nearly every one of the young misses who received their early training at these schools. In the Safford School were the three Jones girls—Mary, Julia and Alice, daughters of the Evansville mayor at that date. Martha Orr, Malvina Shanklin, destined to become a few years later the wife of a U. S. Supreme Judge. Helen Wilcox, daughter of a leading physician here; the Oakley girls—Eliza, Sue and Judith; Kate Ann and Hattie Howes. The Hornbrook girls—Carrie, Lou, Julia and Bessie. Julia and Louise were twins so nearly alike we never could tell them apart. Maggie Goslee, Mary Page—the beauty of the school. Lizzie Half, Laura Moore, Lavina Scantlin, Letitia Churchill, Mary Stockwell, afterwards Mrs. Preston, Maggie Allen, Edith Reilly, Jennie Couples, Martha Hopkins. About this time there appeared in Gleason's *Pictorial* a poem entitled, "Martha Hopkins in the Kitchen Making Pies." How the girls did tease her about it. There were others, very charming girls whom I cannot recall just now. One incident stands forth with distinctness, young C. K. Drew, a handsome Evansville gallant, would drive up in a dashing rig of a sunny afternoon and beg Miss Abbot for one of the two Marys to accompany him riding. She, dear lady, could never refuse. How we small girls did envy them. At a grand May day festival held in Foster's Hall, Mary Page was the chosen queen and Julia Jones, the crown bearer, attended by a long line of garland bearers, maids of honor, pages, cupids,—a very spectacular affair attended by hundreds and I doubt if Evansville has ever since witnessed a more charming display of youthful beauty.

"My own entrance and introduction into this school was

rather pathetic. I now smile at the impression I must have made on these young misses as I was led into the room by my sister and stared round-eyed at the sea of faces before me. Dressed in a yellow calico, (how I hated it) heavy shoes, long thin hair braided in two pig tails—a little country girl awkward in manner and badly frightened. I must have made a sorry appearance. I didn't become a general favorite nor was I allowed to enter into the plays and pastimes at once, but when they found I could imbibe all their recitations—French, Latin and English with facility,—I say *imbibed* for I was never conscious of applying myself to my books, I was offered a tardy recognition. Another incident stands out in memory of my schooldays there. Lying between the church and school buildings, a plot of land had been laid off into beds, many of the girls cultivated these garden plots and beautiful flowers bloomed in them. I was passionately fond of flowers and wanted a plot too. Finding a deserted corner I dug up the ground and planted it full of withered roses which I had found. How the girls did laugh at it and called Mr. Safford in to see it. Of course he laughed at my futile efforts and remarked: "Well she's the flower of the school, anyway." I don't know whether it was said in derision or sympathy, but the title clung to me and I was unmercifully teased for being 'the flower of the school'.

"It wasn't long before the Safford School closed its doors and the pupils drifted to other schools, or were sent abroad for the finishing process."

One of the girls, Malvina Shanklin, became the wife of Justice John M. Harlan of the United States Supreme Court, and was well fitted by inheritance and education to grace any circle in Washington, D. C. Martha Orr married Samuel Bayard, banker of Evansville. Her constructive mind and sympathetic nature made her a trusted leader in church and charity circles through a long life. The gift of Bayard Park to the city perpetuates her memory.

At this writing Lou Hornbrook (Mrs. S. G. Evans), Mary Caldwell (Mrs. H. M. Sweetser) and Miss Lavina Scantlin of Evansville, Maggie Allen (Mrs. Armstrong of Rockport), Phebe Whittlesey (Mrs. Hamlin of Berkeley, California), are still living.

Although the boys named have all passed away, many of

them have left their mark on the city they faithfully served. James L. Orr was a wise counsellor and generous patron of every civic enterprise. Major A. C. Rosencranz was a philanthropist and pioneer in manual education. The two brothers, George and John G. Shanklin, were for years editors of the *Evansville Courier*, and strong as intellectual giants and as political leaders in southern Indiana. - John G. Shanklin served a term as Secretary of the State of Indiana.

A story of Frederick Pentecost, the noted preacher as told by Mrs. Evans, shows one cannot always foretell the pupil who will attain future fame, for Frederick was notoriously lazy and idle, yet always had an answer ready for the teacher's question. One teacher offered an honor to the pupil who would catch Fred studying, but no one was able to qualify.

One pupil, John W. Foster, attained international fame. In the Civil War he won the rank of General. In diplomacy he served his country in Mexico, Spain and Russia. He was counsel and special envoy on many international tribunals and finally was appointed Secretary of State by President Harrison.

In his reminiscences of early Evansville, solicited by our President, Mr. J. E. Iglehart, for the Centennial History of Evansville, General Foster writes thus of Mr. Safford and his school:

"From the Reminiscences of John W. Foster.

The Schools.

"At this time, (1850) the public graded school system had not been established. The old brick schoolhouse on a part of the Public Square, built by subscription of the citizens about thirty years before, was still standing but not in use. This building was erected for "Father" Chute, a graduate of Dartmouth College, who taught in this building for twenty years, but at that time had retired. One of the most prominent schools was that of Mr. J. W. Knight (who later served in the graded public schools) but he taught only the "three Rs" and a singing method of geographical study which I had already mastered. For a little while I attended the German school held in the basement of the Catholic Church which so long stood on Second street of which Father Deydier was for many years the respected and honored pastor. I received my chief inspiration

for study from Prof. Myron W. Safford, of Vermont, whose wife was a sister of U. S. Vice-President Morton, who established a private school in the building erected by the Presbyterian Church "on the Hill." He encouraged my desire to go to college and prepared me for all the required studies except Greek and Latin, for which he had no classes. I studied Latin under the tutorship of a young law student just from the East, reading law in the office of Conrad Baker, then the leading lawyer of the town—Thomas E. Garvin,—who became one of our most prominent citizens and lived amongst us to a good old age. Greek I had to leave till I entered college, conditioned to bring it up during the year. At that time there was only one student in college from Evansville, and he prepared by his mother who years before had come from New England as a teacher and married one of the leading merchants of the town. This young man, James M. Shanklin, I shall have occasion to refer to again.

"The city public schools were not established until 1853, and their creation and success were due largely to Horatio Q. Wheeler, who came from Maine in "the forties", was a law partner of John Ingle, and proved one of the most useful of our citizens. It was owing greatly to his indomitable energy and careful training that the Evansville public schools became the chief pride of its people."

In another article General Foster says:

"When I first made the trip from Evansville to Bloomington to enter Indiana University, I traveled in a one-horse buggy with my trunk strapped on behind and the journey required four days."

The church and the state were inseparably linked in the long ago. The teacher was usually a self-denying, zealous home missionary dedicated to the culture of the soul as well as the minds. The fear of the Lord was taught as "the beginning of wisdom."

Mr. Safford was such a man, of the deepest religious convictions. On coming to Evansville in 1847 he connected himself immediately with the Little Church on the Hill, the new school branch of the Presbyterian faith, and was soon chosen one of its ruling elders. For two years he was superintendent of its Sabbath School, and was one of its most active collectors of funds according to old church records.

About the time of his coming to Evansville an act was passed by the State Legislature dated February 16, 1848, providing "That the voters of the state shall at the annual election, on the first Monday in August, 1848, give their votes for or against the enactment of a law by the next legislature, for raising by taxation, an amount, which added to the present school funds, shall be sufficient to support free common schools in all the school districts in the state not less than three nor more than six months each year."²

This was the first gun fired in the campaign for "free schools." It required, however, three or four years of persistent agitation of "many meetings and much talking" under the ardent leadership of Mr. H. Q. Wheeler, before the people of Evansville were persuaded to establish the present system of public schools, which was finally accomplished in 1853. This action was necessarily disastrous to the academies of that day.

After a year of decreasing patronage, Mr. Safford gave up his school in Evansville and removed to Uniontown, Kentucky. Later he went south to Cornersville, Tennessee, where he opened a school, with his wife and niece, Miss Laura Safford, as assistants. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was forced by the intense feeling in the South to leave Tennessee, and removed with his family to his old home at Morganfield, Kentucky, where he died December 10, 1862, of typhoid pneumonia.

Guerilla warfare was rife in the vicinity of Morganfield and some of Mr. Safford's former pupils were active guerillas. Mr. Safford on this account felt safe but his wife was very fearful, especially when he was out late at night. Col. John W. Foster, who had been a pupil of his Evansville Academy, was sent over the border to quell the guerilla warfare. Mr. Safford's daughter, Mrs. G. W. Stewart, then a young girl of fourteen, remembers distinctly the Union cavalry rushing through the streets of Morganfield standing in their stirrups, with pistol in hand, and Col. Foster calling out as they passed the Safford home, "If any one touches a hair of Mr. Safford's head, I'll raze the town to the ground."

Mrs. Safford and her two children settled in Philadelphia. The son died in early manhood but the daughter Laura, born in Evansville, developed into a beautiful and brilliant young

2. *Laws of Indiana* 1847-48, p. 49.

woman, and is still living in New York City. As Mrs. John Wood Stewart, she is known nationally, indeed internationally, as the organizer of three great societies. She inherited directly from her father unusual organizing ability and an enthusiastic love of nature. In speaking of him she says: "He left me no foot of land but acres of sky." This idealism has materialized in the Needlework Guild of America, with its thousands of women pledged to give two new garments a year to the poor. Her love of nature made her a gardener and sympathy bade her share her flowers with sick and sorrowing, so the Plant, Flower and Fruit Guild was born, and now has branches in every state in the Union, one of its objects being the establishment of school gardens in cities. Mrs. Stewart takes great pride in the fact that her father was a pioneer in *this* modern movement. In memory of her husband recently deceased, she has established and endowed a Foundation called the "League of the Friendly Service," with its trained and volunteer ministry to helpless and despondent "shut-ins."

Mrs. Stewart made a pilgrimage to Evansville several years ago, because it had been her birthplace and her father had here spent the happiest years of his life.

Having become interested in recent years in Evansville College, she came again this spring to plan the planting of a plot of ground on the college campus in memory of her father. The stone memorial seat, with name and dates, is also to bear these inscriptions—

"Pioneer of Higher Education, Pioneer of School Gardens,
 Lover of God, lover of nature, lover of humanity."

Mr. Safford, though dead, will yet speak to the students of this college in the motto of the sundial, there erected—

"Think often of birds and flowers and your Heavenly Father."

Referring to the development of Evansville College in a letter recently she writes:

"The first thought was of my father's passion for study and teaching, his love for youth and I recalled Secretary Foster and his remark to me one day in Washington—'Your father did more for my development intellectually and spiritually than any other human being.' After we left Evansville he was always, to his last illness, devoted to young people, and their development, mentally, and spiritually, and I hope

he sees from heaven or in his earthly ministry to us all, this evolution of the spirit of broad education in Evansville."

* * * * *

I have tried to rescue from oblivion this story of the rise and fall of classical schools in our city. They waxed and waned and perished, even those intended to be permanent. Was the effort then in vain, and the endeavors of faithful teachers a failure? Their biographies are never found in the commercial histories of the "Builders of the City." Surely they who taught its children, to see clearly, to know surely, and to act wisely, were public benefactors. The good they did is not "interred with their bones" but lives on in blessing and now in this generation has blossomed into the glorious fruit of a standard college, which in turn shall be the goodly heritage of generations yet unborn.

Prof. Palmer, of Harvard University, lamented one day that his talented wife, Alice Freeman, once president of Wellesley College, would leave no permanent monument behind her in a book of lasting importance, which she was by nature and by education so well qualified to write. Instead her time was taken up with endless discussions and tiresome interviews with former pupils. She replied, "Books are dead things. It is people who count, you must put yourself into people, they touch other people, these others still, and so you go on working forever."

President Iglehart: I wish I had time to supplement that paper, but will say that with my knowledge of the period it covers it represents historical research into that period which I think is so exhaustive that the future investigator will never go beyond it. It represents the last word in the history of early education in Evansville, and is therefore of great value to the future historian.

Next on the program is Miss Ida D. Armstrong, of Rockport, "The Lincolns in Spencer County."

THE LINCOLNS IN SPENCER COUNTY

By MISS IDA D. ARMSTRONG, Rockport.

(Copyright applied for, 1923.)

To write a Lincoln story today, with any part of it un-

published and authentic, is, you will admit, almost unbelievable, yet the writer of this article has the temerity to present it, making the claim that a small portion of it has never been published, is authentic, therefore true.

The history of the Lincoln family in Spencer county is familiar to every one and this is only a little sketch of a few items connected with the Lincolns while in the county, that may be of interest.

To begin with, Spencer county is proud of the fact that Abraham Lincoln spent the formative years of his life in this county, coming here in his eighth year, with his parents, from Kentucky.

Lincoln in writing his own autobiography, in December, 1859, published in 1881, by W. H. DuPuy, A.M., D.D., who for 16 years was associate editor of the *Christian Advocate*, said as an introductory: "I was born February 12, 1809, in Hardin county, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia of undistinguished families, second families perhaps I should say. My mother, who died in my tenth year, was of a family of the name of Hanks."

Referring to their arrival in what is now Spencer county, he said: "We reached our new home about the time the state came into the Union. It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. There I grew up. There were some schools, so-called, but no qualifications were ever required of a teacher beyond "readin', writin', and cipherin'" to the rule of three. If a straggler, supposed to understand Latin, happened to sojourn in the neighborhood, he was looked upon as a wizard. There was absolutely nothing to excite ambition for an education. Of course, when I came of age, I did not know much. Still somehow, I could read, write and cipher to the rule of three, but that was all I have not been to school since. The little advance I now have upon this store of education I have picked up from time to time under the pressure of necessity. I was raised to farm work, at which I continued till I was twenty-two. At twenty-one I came to Illinois and passed the first year in Macou county, then I got to New Salem at that time in Sangamon (now in Menard) county where I remained a year as a sort of clerk in a store. Then came the Black Hawk War, and I was elected a captain of volunteers, a success which gave me more pleasure than anything I have had since.

"I went into the campaign, was nominated, ran for the legislature the same year (1832) and was beaten, the only time I ever have been beaten by the people. The next and three succeeding biennial elections I was elected to the legislature. I was not a candidate afterward. During the legislative period I had studied law and removed to Springfield to practice it. In 1846 I was elected to the lower house of Congress, was not a candidate for re-election.

"From 1849 to 1854, both inclusive, I practiced law more assiduously than ever before. Always a Whig in politics and generally on the Whig electoral ticket, making active canvasses. I was losing interest in politics when the repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused me again. What I have done since then is pretty well known.

"If any personal description of me is thought desirable, it may be said, I am in height, six feet four inches, nearly; lean in flesh, weighing on an average, one hundred eighty pounds, no other marks or brands recollected."

This is a whimsical and meager account of his early life.

The act creating Spencer county provided that ten per cent of the proceeds of the sale of town lots should be used to establish a library. After 1820 several hundred volumes were on the library shelves but the name of Lincoln never appeared on the records at any time as a borrower of books.

Many stories have been told of Lincoln's borrowing a book from Josiah Crawford, which book was damaged while in Lincoln's possession. It has been told that Lincoln made a cabinet for pay, etc., etc. However, the following is the true account of it:

Lincoln borrowed from Josiah Crawford, grandfather of William F. Adams, now living in Rockport, Weems' *Life of Washington*. This book was taken to the Lincoln cabin and read many times. Lincoln placed the book between logs in the cabin, and rain ruined the book. Lincoln went to Crawford and said, "I got the book damaged, how much was it worth?" Crawford replied, "Well Abe, you come over and pull fodder a couple of days and we will call our accounts even." This Lincoln did.

William F. Adams' grandfather has told him the above story repeatedly and I give Mr. Adams as authority.

It was while Sarah Lincoln was working in Josiah Craw-

ford's home that Aaron Grigsby courted her. Abe also worked at divers times for Mr. Crawford.

Josiah Crawford gave to his grandson, William F. Adams, of Rockport, Indiana, a school reader, *The Kentucky Preceptor*, used by Lincoln. Adams sold the book in 1865, to William H. Herndon, the law-partner and biographer of Lincoln. The blank spaces in the book were filled with Lincoln's writing.

Many have the impression that Thomas Lincoln and family at one time lived on Anderson Creek, when he kept a ferry and Abe was the ferryman. This is not true. The Lincolns never lived on Anderson Creek and so never kept a ferry, but they came directly to the homestead near what is now Lincoln City, about the year 1816 where they remained until 1830. However, in 1825 Lincoln was employed by James Taylor to manage a ferry at \$6.00 a month. The ferry plied between the banks of the Ohio, also Anderson Creek. This perhaps gave rise to the belief that the Lincolns lived on Anderson Creek. In 1828 Lincoln went, as what was then called a "bow hand" on a flat boat, laden with country produce, to New Orleans.

Lincoln went to "A B C Schools" in Spencer county, kept successively by Andrew Crawford, a man by the name of Swaney, and Azel W. Dorsey. Lincoln told John G. Nicolay immediately after his first election, when giving a sketch of his boyhood days to be used in a biography, that he remembered these three teachers and no others. He also stated that "what he had in the way of education was picked up after he was 23."

While in Spencer county, he roamed the hills and dells, studying the birds, the bees and the flowers; living close to nature, which undoubtedly helped to develop the wonderful human qualities so much admired and eulogized. All through boyhood and youth, Lincoln was in the habit of saying, and perhaps believing, that he would be President of the United States some day.

Lincoln never studied law while in Spencer county and was never a student in Judge Pitcher's office, as the Judge, like many others of that day, only saw an awkward, idle boy, full of pranks, equally ready for a fight, a joke, a sympathetic tear, as occasion demanded, never once catching a vision of the wonderful character developing in this sad-faced boy; and so refused to have Lincoln even as an office boy, and after he was

elected President, Judge Pitcher steadfastly refused to acknowledge that Lincoln could even remotely be considered presidential timber.

In 1844 when Lincoln was a candidate for presidential elector and was making stump speeches for Henry Clay, he came to Spencer County, making one speech in the old court house, another at Gentryville in a blacksmith shop and another at a school house in Carter Township near what is now Lincoln City. While in Rockport, he stayed all night in what is known as the old Sargent house, an old-fashioned brick house perched high on a bluff at the head of Main street. The door entering the room in which he slept has been an item of great interest to visitors in Rockport. On the door is an old-fashioned door latch, the lock of which is four and one-half by six inches, with a small brass door knob which, when turned, raises the latch. Lincoln undoubtedly used this door latch while occupying the room. Mrs. Mary E. Frank now owns the house and has been offered a vast sum for this door latch.

Lincoln wrote a good deal of doggerel and some poetry, some of it coarse and common, some of it charming as the following opening stanza of a little poem he wrote, just after having visited the graves of his mother and sister in Spencer County in 1844, and inclosed in a letter to a friend, explaining when they were written and their inspiration:

"My childhood's home I see again,
And sadden with the view;
And still as memory crowds my brain,
There's pleasure in it, too.

O Memory! Thou midway world,
'Twixt earth and paradise,
Where things decayed and loved ones lost,
In dreamy shadows rise.

And, freed from all that's earthly, vile,
Seem hallowed, pure and bright,
Like scenes in some enchanted isle,
All bathed in liquid light."

In presenting two small Lincoln stories for the first time, I am reminded of the man who published a number of Lin-

coln stories a few years ago, and when asked why he hadn't published them before, replied, "Well, to tell you the truth, I never thought of them before." However, the stories I am presenting are true.

During the winter of 1887-8 my sister, Kate Evelyn Armstrong, taught in the public schools at Lincoln City. A Mrs. Oskins who enjoyed smoking a cob pipe, frequently came to the home where my sister boarded and often spoke of having known Abe Lincoln. On one occasion, Mrs. Oskins said, "Well Abe used to go with me and Lord knows I never would 'a' sacked him, if I'd knowed he was goin' to be President some day. But law! he was so onery and shiffless, I wouldn't keep company with him."

During the same winter, when my sister Kate was visiting in the home of Mrs. Mat Jones, an old lady named Lukins, who also loved a cob pipe, was sitting in a chair tipped against the wall, talking to my sister and spoke of knowing Abe Lincoln. During the course of the conversation, Mrs. Lukins removed her pipe from her mouth and said, "I could a' been Abe Lincoln's wife, if I'd wanted to, yes sirree, I could a' been the first lady of the land." Mrs. Jones said, "Now, Sarah, what are you talking about, you know you couldn't." "I could, too," said Mrs. Lukins. On being pressed further she said, "Well, Abe tuk me home from church oncet."

In speaking of Thomas Lincoln, Redmond Grigsby, Sr., said, "Thomas Lincoln was a very kind-hearted man and cabinet-maker by trade." By way of diversion, I might say, however, that if Thomas Lincoln had made all of the cabinets attributed to him while living in Spencer County, he would have had superhuman ability. Abe Lincoln was not a cabinet maker.

In the relic room of the Spencer County Court House, is perhaps the only cupboard that Spencer county can authentically claim as having been made by Thomas Lincoln during his residence in the county, the lumber for which was whip-sawed by Abe Lincoln. The cupboard has this note pasted on it: "This cupboard was made for Elizabeth Crawford by Thomas Lincoln and son Abraham, while they lived near Lincoln City, Spencer County, Indiana. Mrs. Ben Meace, granddaughter of Elizabeth Crawford fell heir to it and later transferred it to C. F. Brown [the present owner] of Rockport, Ind. (I will stop here to say that to C. F. Brown is due credit for

the preservation of this cupboard, for at the time Mr. Brown came into possession of it, it had been sadly neglected, was not held in high regard by its owners and was on the rapid road to destruction.)

To proceed:

"In 1904, July 17th, Redmond Grigsby, Sr., brother-in-law of Sarah Lincoln Grigsby, identified it as the handiwork of Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln."

William F. Adams, grandson of Elizabeth Crawford, identified the cabinet as the original Lincoln cupboard made for his grandmother.

It is hand-made and very roughly made; small pegs are used for nails; it has a great deal of carving and inlaid work on it. The letters E. C. are inlaid on the upper left door.

This cupboard was on display at a reception given to the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society by Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Cook at the meeting in Rockport on October 11, 1921, together with a number of Lincoln relics; for instance, a hand-made, two-brick brick mold, (small pegs are used in this, also, instead of nails), and it was used by Abraham Lincoln when building a chimney on the first church built near Gentryville.

The mold was given to my father, Joseph D. Armstrong, by the son of the man who helped Lincoln build this chimney. The pity of it is, that the record of this mold was burned when my father's office burned, and while I have heard my father tell of its coming into his possession, and know positively it was the one used by Lincoln, I have forgotten the name of the man who gave it to my father. A Chicago paper had an account of this mold a number of years ago, but carelessly that paper was destroyed.

In 1860 when Nathaniel Grigsby was in Springfield, Illinois, he had an interview with Abraham Lincoln in which Lincoln stated he intended to return to Spencer County and see the people whom he once knew, and felt it a sacred duty to erect a suitable monument at his mother's grave. This he never did. Nancy Hanks Lincoln's grave became over-run with weeds and briars. In the year 1874 my father, Joseph D. Armstrong, was in the woods surrounding Mrs. Lincoln's grave. Noting the neglected, lonely spot and knowing that hunters were trampling it under foot, that there was not the slightest regard paid to it, and realizing that soon there would be no way of locating this sacred ground unless it was in some

manner cared for and marked, my father returned to Rockport and purchased a small marble slab, two feet high with a foot marker. The words "Nancy Hanks Lincoln" was the only inscription on the slab. A few of the business men of Rockport at that time contributed a small amount to help place the markers. My father had the grave cleaned and the markers placed. A few years later one of the Studebakers (Clement, Sr. Ed.) was in Lincoln City waiting between trains and noted the modest slab at this hallowed grave and conceived the idea of a larger tombstone and so wrote to the postmaster at Rockport, Luman S. Gilkey, sending money for this purpose. Alfred H. Yates of Rockport, pioneer marble man, donated the work on the monument. The marble came from Italy through W. H. Sarvis, pioneer marble man of Cincinnati, who also contributed to this cause. Mr. Yates' work and donation on this monument amounted to more than the amount of money sent by the Studebakers. Mr. Yates went to Lincoln City and superintended the placing of it on the grave. The Southern Railway, through the courtesy of their superintendent, provided free transportation for its shipment and for all who desired to attend the ceremonies in 1879 when the monument was erected. F. W. Wibking, of Gentryville, had two teams at the station to haul the monument to the grave. General James C. Veatch, of Rockport, took small subscriptions from a number of the hundred people present, of not more than a dollar each, to procure funds to place an iron fence around the grave. In speaking of the event, one of Rockport's newspapers said: "Mr. Alfred H. Yates has just finished the stone that is to mark the grave of [the mother of] our martyred President—Lincoln. It will be put up to-morrow. H. C. Branham, Supt. of the C. R. & S. W. Ry., with characteristic liberality, has tendered free transportation for the monument and to all those who desire to go out on the morning train to see it set up. It is a plain slab, very heavy, and beautifully finished by Mr. Alfred H. Yates, whose excellent taste and artistic skill are admirably displayed in the work. There will be a number of prominent persons here from Evansville and other points, Douglas the photographer of Evansville, General Veatch and others. While it is not intended that any special display shall be made, the event will doubtless be an interesting one." So I feel that to two Spencer County men, great credit is due, to my father, Joseph D. Armstrong, who was

the first person in the United States to pay tribute at the neglected grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and to Alfred H. Yates, now 81 years old, for his large share in the Studebaker monument and who goes each year to Lincoln City to clean and care for the grave. The slab erected by my father was laid on the grave after the larger monument was erected and was literally broken to pieces and carried away by sightseers, during the next few years.

My father came to Spencer County in 1857 and in 1858 drew a picture of the Lincoln cabin, with its famous tree which tradition tells us was planted by Abraham Lincoln. James Atlas Jones, of Rockport, who worked for Atwell Morgan in 1861 at the time Morgan owned this farm, John Meir, Joseph Gentry, John L. Main, all of Lincoln City, also Alfred H. Yates, of Rockport, all agree that this is an exact drawing of the cabin as it was at that time. Mr. Yates, who came to Rockport in '56, remembers well the old log cabin where the Lincolns dwelt and the log church where they worshipped.

The church, which stood one mile west of what is now Lincoln City, was built of logs with a stick and mud chimney. It was a long, narrow building one and a half stories high, having a very, very large fireplace on one side of the building, with a pulpit made of roughly hewn boards. It had a window (with no glass but heavy wooden shutters, immediately behind it) at one end of the structure, and a ladder leading to the upper story where the people who came great distances might stay over night. Split logs, with wooden pegs for legs, and a puncheon floor, were also features of this church, the logs of which were sold and used in the building of a barn.

My grandfather, Rev. James Fair Armstrong, preached in this quaint old church many times.

In closing I will just repeat that Spencer County is proud of the fact that Lincoln spent his boyhood days within its confines and

When in 1830 he ceased to be a Spencer County resident
 Who could prophesy that in the future he would
 Become the nation's idol, its President,
 So great and so good.

Luncheon at Evansville Chamber of Commerce
(As Guests of that Organization)
Twelve-fifteen o'Clock.

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN LINCOLN HISTORIANS AND THIS SOCIETY.

By PRESIDENT JOHN E. IGLEHART, Evansville.

At the request of your Secretary and of the Executive Committee of this Society, I was prepared to present to the members of the Chamber of Commerce, former Senator Albert J. Beveridge, who, I personally know, desired to be present as an interested spectator at this annual session of our Society. He is unable to be present, and at the request of the same officials, I will occupy the time with a presentation to you of some interesting problems which confront us in our work, including some correspondence scheduled in today's program, in all of which Senator Beveridge has a strong personal interest. I regret very much that he is not here.

Upon the publication of Bulletin 16 of the Indiana Historical Commission, which contained a transcript of the *Proceedings* of the annual meeting in 1922 of this Society with all of the papers read and addresses delivered at that meeting, a critical review of the work of that Society relating especially to the "Lincoln Inquiry," was published editorially in the Indianapolis *Star*, the first notice of which came to me in a letter from Senator Beveridge enclosing the editorial clipping. In that letter he expressed a deep interest in our work and desired to become more intimately acquainted with it, and stated at some length his plans, which had already been publicly announced, to devote whatever time was necessary to prepare and publish an authoritative life of Abraham Lincoln. This review summarizes the work of this Society already done, and in contemplation in the "Lincoln Inquiry", more accurately than I could do it otherwise, and for that reason I quote from it.

"The printed *Proceedings* of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society, just received at the office of the Historical Commission, indicate that this society, composed of the eight "Pocket" counties, not only has a rich field for work, but is diligently engaged in working it. Among the tasks imposed

by the president, Judge John E. Iglehart, upon the several counties is the writing of biographies of the early settlers—the Indian fighters and the commonwealth builders. The subjects chosen indicate that the president has what Thayer characterizes as the art of biography—the ability to select from a mass of material, much of which is mere uninteresting detail, that which is of public interest.

“Among the subjects treated by this Society, the most interesting to the general public is what is known as “The Lincoln Inquiry.” Until very recently the years spent by Abraham Lincoln in Indiana have been practically ignored by his biographers. It is said on good authority that Herndon spent only four days in Indiana, and Ida Tarbell only one day, personally inquiring among Lincoln’s neighbors. Lord Charnwood takes the year 1830, when Lincoln was in his twenty-second year, and when he moved to Illinois, as the starting point for estimating the influences of the times, chiefly political, upon Lincoln’s nature and mind. This, no doubt, because Charnwood had no record of Lincoln in Indiana to which he could refer. He should, however, have begun with the earliest period at which the mind of Lincoln was able to comprehend the issues of the time, the Missouri compromise of 1820—the struggles in 1823 of the slave interests to amend the constitution of Illinois by popular vote to establish slavery there.

“It is known that Lincoln was a familiar visitor at the home of John A. Breckenridge of Warrick County, and that Mr. Breckenridge, an eminent lawyer, lent him law books, and that the two formed a close friendship. It is known, too, that Lincoln read law in the office of Judge John Pitcher at Rockport, one of the great men of Indiana. Since one of Lincoln’s most striking characteristics was an intense thirst for knowledge, it is impossible that he could have been associated with Judge Pitcher and not have discussed with him the most important events of the day. In the society of these men and with their books Lincoln’s character was, without doubt, largely formed, and his nature and intellectual life molded in a marked degree.

“Since American democracy was not of New England or of Atlantic Coast civilization, but was born in the northwest territory, the history of pioneer Indiana assumes a new importance; particularly because of its effect on Lincoln. Un-

fortunately, the history of pioneer southern Indiana has not been written in full. Judge Iglehart is convinced, however, that there is in local histories and in families much material which will throw light on Lincoln's early life. Judge Iglehart is himself engaged in writing the life of Judge Pitcher; the life of John A. Breckenridge is also to be written. The purpose of "The Lincoln Inquiry" is to collect from many new sources information concerning Lincoln from 1816 to 1830. Judge Iglehart considers it "one of the chief assets of the society." If it is carried on with the energy which has characterized the other work of the Society, it also will be one of the chief assets of the state."¹

I should here correct a statement made in this newspaper criticism based on an inaccurate statement made in one of my addresses, printed in Bulletin 16, that Abraham Lincoln studied law in John Pitcher's law office.

He knew John Pitcher who was at that time the leading man in Spencer County and one of the able, indeed one of the great trial lawyers of Indiana. He was on terms of familiar acquaintance with Pitcher, had access to his library and borrowed one or more of his law textbooks to read, but never studied law in Pitcher's office.² Miss Ida M. Tarbell has probably made more exhaustive investigation in regard to Lincoln in Indiana than any other person who has published a biography of him, and is said by some competent judges to have written the best history of Lincoln in Indiana published up to this time. I have always regarded her work as the fairest to the people of the State of Indiana. Her book on the *Footsteps of Abraham Lincoln*, now in press, has brought her closely in touch with the work of this Society, of which she is certainly a competent judge and mention of which occurs in that book.

Upon the next meeting of the Executive Committee of this Society following, I was directed to invite Senator Beveridge to attend this annual meeting. In response to the invitation he expressed great pleasure, and gave the most positive assurance that he would be present if it were possible. In this I know he was sincere, for although he is a man who has many more invitations to deliver public addresses than he can fill, he is deeply interested in our work. In his letter of acceptance

1. Indianapolis *Star*, December 16, 1922.

2. As to the influence of Pitcher on young Lincoln, see *Indiana Magazine of History*, v. 17, p. 147.

to me he said that he did not wish to make a speech, that he preferred to come as a visitor, that he was deeply interested in our work, that he was engaged in the preparation of the life of Abraham Lincoln, which would probably be a great work of his life, and under the circumstances (which I have not now time to state) he said he wanted to come here and study our methods. We all regret the inability of Senator Beveridge to leave home this very inclement weather, which has been prohibited by his physician, but we will have the chance to see him yet. For my part, I hail his entrance into the historical field! It has been lonesome down here not to have some man of vision from the outside who was able to sit with us and aid us in this work. Our work is pioneer work. It has never been done, as we are doing it, in the State of Indiana before. It is of local interest; it is of state interest; it is of national interest. Our work is greater than we know, and I shall welcome the coming of Senator Beveridge at some other meeting, that may be held in some other city in the near future.

I am glad of the opportunity to be able to present to a representative body of the city of Evansville and the large number of members of this Society some of the work and purposes of this Society which are thus brought prominently before you. The Southwestern Indiana Historical Society includes within its territory the eight counties of Posey, Gibson, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Spencer, Perry, Pike and Dubois. An organization of this kind has been found to be more effective for investigation of pioneer life in early Indiana than the organization of county societies; for one reason, among others, that pioneer life in Indiana was well advanced before these eight counties were formed, and while they were yet part of old Knox County in Indiana Territory. Even after statehood, for a number of years all of these counties were included in the same congressional district, and most of them in the same judicial circuit for the purposes of election or appointment of judge and prosecuting attorney. Practically from its beginning in 1818 the village of Evansville gave promise of being the metropolis of southwestern Indiana, and drew to it in a sense a number of the leading men of southwestern Indiana, who from time to time lived in more than one county, and whose history cannot be found in the local history of any single county.

Since the organization of this Society we have held our meetings in most of the counties. I have traveled the circuit as a member of the Southern Indiana Bar in all of the counties except Dubois, most of them for fully fifty years, and am acquainted with the old families, and know the people of this section. I have presided at all of the meetings of this Society which have been held to this time, and I can truthfully say that in the various counties which compose this Society the meetings of this Society have attracted great interest in each community. The representative people of all of these communities have taken an active interest in the entertainment of the members at these meetings, and have aided materially in the progress of our work.

The meetings of this Society have been in all of these counties a centripetal point for the social and intellectual culture of this section. Vanderburgh County has been the last to organize, but it has been organized very effectively. Mrs. George S. Clifford, chairman of the Executive Committee of our Vanderburgh County Museum and Historical Society, with the aid of her able assistants, recently gave a card party in the Coliseum which was attended by about five hundred of the leading women of the city, representative of our best people. At that meeting something over 270 additional members joined our Vanderburgh County Society, which had already been organized and with many other things had taken over the fine museum of Indian relics presented to it by Mr. Sebastian Henrich.

I am glad to have the opportunity to see present so many leading men in the city of Evansville, and to assure you that the movement represented in this Society is one well worthy of your attention and interest. I believe that the time will come when in this great city of southwestern Indiana, the centripetal point of intellectual and social culture will be, as it has been in every other county in the Society, in the meetings and work of our Historical Society.

Relating to my own interest in this historical work, and explaining how it happened that late in life out of the active field of professional and business life, I have been thrown to the surface, so to speak, in historical work, I wish to emphasize what I have on more than one occasion stated in historical articles published by me. The field of our work is almost wholly new. The history of southern Indiana began in the

southern third of the state in that territory nearest the Ohio river and its tributaries, and as late as the period of 1819 to 1829, (the limit fixed by Frederick J. Turner as the period embracing "The Rise of the New West,") altogether the dominating part of the population of Indiana was in the southern portion.

Why the history of that part of the state has been neglected I have not time to state. Probably in part because the history of the rest of the state is, compared to the southern part, new, and co-existent with the period of newspaper publications which are preserved, and from which historical data may easily be obtained sufficient to furnish clear statements of the history of the early period; but the history of the people of southern Indiana has never been written, and many of the facts of interest in that particular have perished. The chief purpose of this Society, so far as I am able to express it, is to preserve and so far as possible put into print for permanent preservation, the history of the people of, and the development of the southern portion of the state in its beginnings.

For this reason we have resisted the efforts to impose upon this Society by the State Historical Commission any labor in connection with county societies, which are so efficiently organized; additional work, much of which relates to the present condition and future growth of our life in the various counties. There is no existing history of southwestern Indiana worth mentioning for real historical purposes. This is not the fault of our able historians, such as Dillon, Esarey, and Dunn.

There are three sources of literature describing early Indiana, and the chief source of our history, including the three sources mentioned, may be said to be misleading, and do injustice to the better class of people; rather to represent the bottom layer of social life only.

The first of this literature which I mention is a book entitled *The New Purchase* by Baynard Rush Hall, a recent edition of which has been published by the Princeton University Press, entitled "The Indiana Centennial Edition," edited by Dr. James A. Woodburn of Indiana University, issued 1916. The book never had much circulation for which fact "explanations" are given. The editor in his introduction gives a history of the first and second edition, and even quotes the Indianapolis *Sentinel* at the time of the publication of the second edition that 'the original design of the work was princi-

pally to hold up to public indignation and ridicule the late Rev. Dr. Wylie, president of the University, with whom the author had a disagreement, which led to his leaving the college, and also the late Governor Whitcomb, General Lowe, and others."

Not only is this newspaper criticism true, but the work breathes a contempt for western character in the people with whom he was thrown, and shows that the author was for some reason unable to adjust himself to pioneer life and to become a part of it. He represented rather the sentiment of New England, and several Atlantic Coast states in addition, which looked with an unfriendly eye upon the growth of the West. The eastern states opposed the addition of new states to the Union, and there existed a fear of the development of an agricultural democracy on account of which theological students like Hall came West in part to preserve the religious and intellectual *status quo* of these older states. Such a thing was impossible and therefore Hall failed. Hall was wrecked on the shoals which even today confront every eastern man who for the first time comes West as a minister or teacher among western people—shoals which a tactless and narrow-minded man cannot successfully navigate. It cannot be denied that his viewpoint of the people is that of a leading actor in the play of early Indiana life where he failed to succeed and he makes no effort to disguise his bitterness as a bad loser.

I desire to say from this platform that the people of Indiana are tired of a third effort to perpetuate this book which never had real public recognition—the editor says "its sales were disappointing",—and for the printing of which no reasonable excuse ever existed. It was libelous in the extreme, full of express malice against leading men more successful than Hall was, who, upon the facts shown in the book, could do nothing less than discharge him as teacher.

It was cowardly libel as the author concealed his name and identity, so that in a prosecution for criminal libel he could not be identified, and the editor of the third edition had much difficulty in making a "key" now that Hall and his victims are all dead, giving their names.

The editor reports much indignation when the book was first published, as the public soon identified the victims of Hall's malice.

The doctrine of financial responsibility for breach of obli-

gations in civil and commercial life involving libel, negligence of carriers, etc., has resulted in later times in the better protection of personal and private rights and safety than theological training or moral urge.

Recently an Indiana publisher issued a novel, wholly innocent of any malicious intent, but one of the characters lampooned by the author was identified (by a jury in New York City, where the publisher was served in a suit for libel) as the judge of a *nisi prius* court, and the author a disappointed suitor in that court, who gratified his malice in the book. The jury rendered a verdict of about \$35,000 damages against the publisher.

In the *New Purchase* in all of its editions, there was no innocence of knowledge, by anyone who read the book, of the malice of the author, which is open and expressed.

The editor of the "Indiana Centennial Edition" of the book at the close of his introduction expresses a doubt as to the propriety of publishing an "account of an unseemly quarrel", yet "the publishers and editors of the present edition are convinced that they should allow" its publication, etc., and it "is therefore reprinted, college quarrel, personalities and all, without change or expurgation".

I hope that Princeton University Press managers are satisfied and will give us no more of this kind of missionary literature.

The second item of literature of this class I mention as Eggleston's *Hoosier Schoolmaster*, and in a less degree several others of his novels describing pioneer life and vocabulary. *The Hoosier Schoolmaster* is a dialect novel of low life. It was hurriedly written to furnish copy for a New York periodical, of which Eggleston had been chosen editor. The extraordinary history of this book furnished by the author in the second or "library" edition is well worth reading, as containing a view of western life not so well found elsewhere. Eggleston did not intend to create the impression in his book that the low life described by him represented the average, or the better class of people, but it was so misinterpreted, practically universally so outside of the state, and has always done the reputation of the state great injury. The book has continued to be a good seller, and is so much in demand in the Indiana libraries today that it is generally "out" when inquired for.

Relating to the position which this class of literature holds as descriptive of the people of early Indiana, it may be said that in the history of the better class of early Indiana people all such books are irrelevant and should be excluded from consideration.

The third source of material in which an attempt has been made to furnish some description of the people of southern Indiana is found in the numerous volumes dealing with the early history of Abraham Lincoln, who lived in Spencer County from the time he was nine years of age until after he was twenty-one years of age.³ When this Society was organized, in an inaugural address, I said that "The Lincoln Inquiry" was one of the chief assets of this Society, but that we should not permit it to overshadow the other very important lines of our work. Two years later in an annual address to this Society, I said on that subject, that on that point I had changed my mind. That I had come to the conclusion that the missing chapter in Lincoln's life in Indiana results in a substantial degree from the fact that there is a missing chapter—which fact we all recognize—in southern Indiana life, and when we have supplied the latter, which we hope to do, we will, I think, have furnished the facts from which the competent historian will in a measure supply the former.

Last year I received a letter from Miss Ida Tarbell, who was then preparing for the printer her manuscript on her newest work, *The Footsteps of Abraham Lincoln*, and in this letter she sought to obtain from me such information as I could give her for use in her work.

In response to Miss Tarbell's letter, I sent her by return mail copies of magazine articles, as well as printed addresses of this Society, giving my views as publicly expressed, and also some additional facts which were supplemented by me later in an interview with her when in New York during the holidays I met her.

I take this opportunity in stating the viewpoint which I gave to Miss Tarbell, to add some further suggestions relative to what seems to me to be the correct standpoint of the investigator after facts, relating to the history of Abraham Lincoln, while he lived in Indiana. Explaining my own relations to the work and to the people of southern Indiana, I said in substance that I was born in Warrick County in 1848,

3. Ed.: Ida Tarbell in her *Life of Lincoln* states that Lincoln came to Indiana in 1816 at the age of seven years.

less than eleven years after the birth of Edward Eggleston, still the pioneer age in southern Indiana; that I was trained as a lawyer in the school in which John Pitcher was first a pupil, then a teacher; that my first school teacher was one of the Squeers type (lacking Squeers' criminal instincts and record) who reduced cruelty to children to an exact science. My grandfather sat upon the Board of Justices of Warrick County from 1825 till 1831, when the law abolished that form of county government. He lived about twenty miles from the Lincoln farm, and was much of the time in Boonville, to which place it seems during those years until 1830 Abraham Lincoln was much attracted as a spectator to court trials at Boonville and elsewhere.

I disclaimed interest in the knowledge of facts and documents of the kind about which Miss Tarbell inquired, but again stated that in my judgment the missing chapter in Lincoln's life would never be written until the missing chapter in the life of the people of southwestern Indiana had been written; that upon the latter work, which necessarily embraced in a substantial degree the former, our society was now engaged; and that there was no short cut on getting into "The Lincoln Inquiry," but as our work progressed, light would be thrown upon it.

This seems to me to be the best solution at the present time to the inquiry about Abraham Lincoln's life in Indiana from 1816 to 1830. The facts and circumstances relevant to that inquiry can only be found and put together by the most painstaking and discriminating study of the environments existing in the whole of southwestern Indiana, certainly including the eight counties within this district, all of which, as I have stated, had but recently been created out of old Knox County. I believe when this work is done the application of the rules applying to circumstantial evidence will confirm my judgment as to the fact that Lincoln availed himself of all of the opportunities existing in pioneer life in this section when he lived in Indiana; but that the problem involved in such inquiry when first made after Lincoln's death was too complex for, and beyond the vision of the only witnesses who could testify, and who might have known the actual facts had they been able to appreciate them at the proper time, and been interrogated along these lines. I believe also that my conclusion is the correct explanation of the equipment of

the man Lincoln as he is found in Illinois in 1830 and later. Such an interpretation would furnish the method of solving the problem underlying "The Lincoln Inquiry", none other having been furnished by the historians.

The evidence can be found when it is discriminatingly searched for. The movement of people and of trade north and south, as well as east and west in southwestern Indiana during the period mentioned, was what may be called "fluid" and not "frozen" to use a modern figure coined in the financial world. By this I mean that for the space of fifty miles or greater, in all directions, from the Lincoln farm, contact with the people was accessible to Lincoln. He was not confined to the meagre showing of facts which his biographers furnish, and it cannot be reasonably inferred because the people of those times are all dead, and left no record easily available, that therefore they did not exist and were not potential factors in the life of that period.

Lincoln himself in later years stated that he had read every book available within the radius of fifty miles of the farm upon which he lived, and this included well-known centers of culture with the best opportunities of the time for a man like Lincoln, so thirsty for knowledge, to learn and to know substantially what was worth knowing in that section at that time.

Vincennes was still the mother city of a large territory, including all this section, and was the residence of many of the leading politicians and lawyers, able men, who were well-known, and traveled on professional political business, as well as in trade. Men like Judge Isaac Blackford, General W. Johnson, and other prominent men, were speculators in land, which fact the various county records show. General W. Johnson lived in Evansville for about a year and acted as deputy clerk about 1820.

There was a stage line from Evansville to Vincennes, from 1824 continuously, making at least two trips each way a week, till railroads were built. Evansville was the receiving and discharging point for New Orleans, and the Ohio River traffic for Vincennes, and all intermediate territory, as well as a wider territory as newspaper advertisements of the time show.

New Harmony was during that time at its zenith, a point of world-wide importance, where resided men of national

reputation, and where the intellectual standard, as appears in the magazine and newspaper literature then published in New Harmony, was high, judged by the highest standards of that period throughout the country. In 1827 Robert M. Evans lived in New Harmony. His brother, James Evans, was a wool carder at the same time, and earlier in Princeton, to which point history says Abraham Lincoln walked once each year to have his wool carded.

In 1822 a road was built from New Harmony to Boonville, built in Vanderburgh County in two sections, extending from the Warrick County line to the Posey County line, centering at Saundersville, the heart of the first British settlement in Indiana.

Corydon was the capital of the state till 1825, and long after that period the residence of prominent men, and travel was continuous between that point and Vincennes and Evansville by roads which went past the Lincoln farm.

The entire eight counties in the Society, including Lincoln's county of Spencer, were all in the same judicial circuit, for judges and prosecuting attorneys, and the lawyers, including leading men of the time, as commonwealth builders, followed the judge on the circuit on horseback. Judge James Hall during that period was circuit judge in southern Illinois where conditions were similar in this respect to conditions in southwestern Indiana, and he says that in this manner the judge, prosecuting attorney and lawyers who traveled together, spent nearly half of their time on horseback. The court seldom lasted over two or three days, unless some felony or tort case with many witnesses was to be tried.

It was on these occasions that Lincoln attended court at Boonville and Rockport. In February, 1823, Thomas J. Evans, formerly of Princeton, a brother of General Robert M. Evans and of James Evans, the wool carder, advertised in the *Evansville Gazette*, that he had moved to Rockport and would practice in all of the counties in southwestern Indiana.

The doctors had well organized societies, which held their annual meetings in Evansville and elsewhere, the members of which extended through the various counties, and the regulation of the practice of medicine by statute and by license from these societies was a matter of much public interest.

The Congressional district in Lincoln's time included southwestern Indiana, and excepting two years, from 1824

to 1838 and during all of Andrew Jackson's time, Ratliff Boon, who lived near Boonville, and within about twenty miles of Abraham Lincoln, was congressman for these counties, including Spencer County. He was elected on the Jackson ticket in 1828 when Lincoln, interested in the study of the law, was nineteen years of age, and (as he was at seventeen years of age) six feet two inches tall, or over. The *Congressional Record* shows that Ratliff Boon was a self-constituted floor leader of Jackson in the House of Representatives, and Jackson spoke of him as "faithful among the faithless". There is no doubt that Ratliff Boon and the Lincolns in Spencer County were well acquainted, while Boon was their congressman. When Lincoln left Indiana he was a voter, and there were a number of voters among his near relatives. Boon was an attractive and persuasive man as a campaigner, and was the political czar of southwestern Indiana, a strict party man, and the Lincolns lived on one of the main roads which Boon must and did travel in passing through Spencer County.

Herndon quotes one verse of a doggerel song that Lincoln sung at that time, as follows:

"A stanza from a campaign song which Abe was in the habit of rendering, according to Mrs. Crawford, attests his earliest political predilections:

"Let auld acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind,
May Jackson be our president,
And Adams left behind.'"

History records that the Lincolns followed the Boons west over the mountains, and I have made the statement in print that the Lincolns followed the Boons to Harrison County, Indiana, and that I believed that Thomas Lincoln followed Ratliff Boon to Indiana in 1816. Boon came in 1809, and there is as much evidence that Thomas Lincoln followed Ratliff Boon to Indiana in 1816 as for any other reason, for settling where he did. Lincoln settled within twenty miles of Boon, by no means a long distance in those days, and much closer than to his relatives, the Lincolns who followed the Boons in Harrison County.

The county records, the congressional records, the court records, (particularly of the movements of the leading mem-

bers of the bar, which appear in the order books of the courts in each of the counties), the minutes of the governor of the Territory and State of appointments to office, the early history of the churches, the history of New Harmony and of the first British settlement in Indiana, will furnish interesting facts in the line of these suggestions.

Individual families are known to have moved into and out of the Lincoln neighborhood. Some have left their descendants still living in the neighborhood, some have left their names in the names of creeks, townships, and villages.

There were during all that time newspapers published at Vincennes; most of the time at New Harmony; from 1821 to 1825 at Evansville, all of the time at Louisville, and history records that Lincoln read the Louisville newspaper, and the scant direct evidence furnished by the historians, records that Lincoln did read the newspapers.

Of course, in the absence of any record, it will be presumed that John Pitcher and John A. Breckenridge, had the available literature of the time, books and newspapers, and history records that each of them furnished these to Abraham Lincoln.

Any man who knew John Pitcher as I knew him for several years before he finally retired from the practice of the law, would not have cared to ask him whether he took the Vincennes *Sun*, and other current literature available at that time.

The same family of Casselberrys have left their name in the name of a creek in Perry County, as well as a township in Posey County during this period.

The Harts were a great western pioneer family, the three brothers were partners with Richard Henderson in his great scheme of Richard Henderson and Company, and in the very beginning of Warrick County, the Hart family settled, while it still included Spencer County. Nathaniel Hart was the first county agent of Warrick County, and one of the leaders. The Hart families have always been prominent in Warrick County, and are to this date. Members of that family were early in Dubois County. The Harts were especially prominent in Kentucky, and one of the prominent members of that family from Posey County is a member of this Society. One Kentucky history mentions the claim of one of the Hart brothers, that he consulted with Daniel Boone in the begin-

ning of Kentucky history, but that he was entitled to priority over Boone in his claim as pioneer in early Kentucky settlement.

John A. Graham was appointed (I think by Lincoln) Assistant Register of the United States treasury, and lived and died in Washington after 1870. The Graham family in those days lived both in Spencer and Warrick Counties, and they were people of culture. I remember very well about 1870 that my father after his visits to court in Washington City would report with much interest and pleasure his visit to John A. Graham, who was one of his boyhood friends.

Many other families which I have not time to mention may be traced during this period in this locality, where descendants are still living in this section. Miss Tarbell in her letter to me speaks of these including people in the English settlement as "many fine upstanding people".

That Lincoln knew many of these people, and knew about all worth knowing of them, I believe. I believe that in 1830 Abraham Lincoln knew pretty well all that was worth knowing in his locality which could be learned by reading the papers, intelligent inquiry, and personal acquaintance with the better class of people whose history has not been properly recorded as I have shown.

Every well written biography and sketch of pioneer conditions of early Indiana people and life ought to throw some light, however small, on "The Lincoln Inquiry."

The history of those families and others who were not remote neighbors of the Lincolns in Indiana, will furnish the environment of Abraham Lincoln while he lived in Indiana.

These are some suggestions of lines of inquiry relating to the life of our people in which Abraham Lincoln and his opportunities figured. I have in magazine articles referred to other items of this class of evidence, but must leave its investigation to others.

I began this historical work too late in life to finish it as I would like to do.

Whatever vision of interpretation I may have into "The Lincoln Inquiry," which I have treated in my addresses as only one of the important lines of our work in historical research in southwestern Indiana, it has come to me in part at least from birth and early training under pioneer conditions—influences which I have described in addresses, the

most important of which I have published in magazine articles; also in a long, active career as a trial lawyer, who has lived on the battle line, whose duty imposed judicial investigation of facts, and evidence, both direct and circumstantial, with a sense of responsibility for thoroughness and accuracy based on hard work without which a lawyer in such work must fail. In addition, I have had very active experience in the organization and work of this Society from its beginning, and work of similar nature while acting as chairman of the Centennial Historical Commission of the City of Evansville previous to the organization of this Society.

The continued opportunities during my entire professional life in Evansville and southwestern Indiana as remote successor in the law practice to Judge Battell, an original pioneer, John Ingle, Jr., Horatio Q. Wheeler, and as direct successor to my father, all pioneers, placed me in touch with the unfinished work of many of the original pioneers themselves, which I have finished in my own professional life. Many of the original pioneers I have known personally, as well as most of their children who have succeeded in life.

The preservation of the county records, including those of the clerk's office, contained pleadings (especially bills and answers in chancery suits, in their nature descriptive and often historical in narrative, with occasionally a deposition, always interesting), which have placed me in close touch with the master spirits of the early Indiana Bar, which was established chiefly in the southern portion of the state. They have left their impress for good on our early history, for the qualities of a lawyer necessary to the best work in pleading, have changed little in one hundred years.

All these have given me a knowledge of the times and people often accurate as to such as I have never known or seen, but as I have learned from corroborating circumstances.

It has been, and will be my purpose, to deliver over this trust to other capable and willing workers in their own fields as well, who will take it up where I may leave it unfinished.

In addition to a number of valuable papers, original research work by members of this Society, are at least two sources of record of facts worthy of mention. First, George R. Wilson, of Jasper and Indianapolis, author of a history of Dubois County, has compiled more than a dozen volumes (continually increasing) of unprinted manuscript references

to sources of relevant facts relating to people, events and matters of public interest in early Indiana. These are his private property, but I have never failed to obtain interesting facts on inquiry from him, and have twice drafted him for important biographical sketches which he has made, furnishing important additions to early Indiana history.

The other is a series of historical articles published under the title of "The Pocket Periscope" on the editorial page of every Sunday morning for three years past in the *Evansville Courier*, the leading morning daily in this section. These articles are attractively written and have created a real interest among the readers of that paper in a large territory. Their permanent value to my mind is in the fact that their writer, Thomas James de la Hunt, of Cannelton, author of a history of Perry County, has collected from many sources, much of them unavailable in their original form, a very large amount of material which, if put together in a single volume with a proper index, would be of real value for present use by historical writers. Their contents would be suggestive to the members of this Society in our current work; and as such would make an excellent beginning in the systematic preservation in available form of much good material. It is the purpose of this Society, if practicable, to have these "Periscope" articles collected, edited and published in a single volume with a good index for use in this Society, and in the State of Indiana, for legitimate historical purposes. They would, I believe, stimulate interest throughout the state.

In response to my letter to Miss Tarbell, I received from her a letter which reads as follows:

"November 20, 1922.

"Judge John E. Iglehart,
Evansville, Indiana.

"My Dear Judge Iglehart:

"I am under many obligations to you for the trouble you have taken in my behalf. Your letter is so full and so suggestive that I feel that it would be much wiser for me to study it and the documents you have sent me, before talking with you.

"I am glad that you take the view you do. It is mine. I do not believe that Lincoln can be understood without under-

standing better than I do, at least, Southwestern Indiana. What that country was, what its people thought and did, had, I am convinced, a deep influence on the young Lincoln. I feel that in my previous Lincoln work I have been too much interested in picking out the facts and incidents which could be directly connected with Lincoln, that I have not sufficiently studied his intellectual and moral and social environment, particularly in the years that he was in your part of the country. I am more and more convinced, too, that that environment was shot through with fine feeling and ideas. I shall be greatly interested in studying what you are doing.

"I have decided to go through to New York tonight, instead of going down to Evansville. I am much needed there, but later I hope I shall have a chance of talking with you. I fear I cannot go on to Evansville in January, but I shall depend upon you to let me know how I can get copies of all of your proceedings, and later I surely shall get to your part of the world.

"I am much gratified by your point of view. I think it's the sound one, and it is bound to illuminate the life of Lincoln as well as to introduce us to many fine, upstanding people.

"Very sincerely yours,
(Signed:) "IDA M. TARBELL."

In a letter dated December 4th Miss Tarbell says "I am much interested in the work in Southwestern Indiana. It seems to me of the most fundamental sort."

Among other letters which our program calls for are several from Rev. Dr. William E. Barton, author of several books on Abraham Lincoln. May 25, 1922, he writes and puts the following inquiries. The first and second questions I have answered in this address in a general way as far as I am able.

"What effect did Indiana have upon the career of Abraham Lincoln?

"Was his life in any material respect influenced by reason of his 14 years in Indiana?

"Would it have been as well for him if he had continued to live in Kentucky and gone from that state in 1830 to Illinois; or if in 1816 he had gone direct to Illinois from Kentucky?"

For want of time to answer them I did not do so at the

time, but in the meeting of this Society at Boonville, last year, my remarks covered in part the third inquiry above mentioned, substantially as follows:

That the curse of the slave code in Kentucky affected the development of an ambitious and capable youth. Under that code, manual labor such as Lincoln was destined to endure was the badge of servitude. Social surroundings of the most humble character, out of which Lincoln arose from the bottom layer of the social world, furnished a bar to that patronage in public opinion and of leading men almost, if not entirely, necessary under southern ideals to great success in political life. Whether Lincoln, if reared in Kentucky as he was in Indiana, would have studied law as he did in Indiana or Illinois no one can say, but I seriously doubt it.

Conditions outlined in Turner's definition of the development of the chief characteristic of agricultural democracy, represented in the northwest by Lincoln as compared to the militant type represented by Jackson in the southwest,—the right and opportunity of the individual to rise to the full measure of his natural and acquired powers under conditions of social mobility—did not exist in Kentucky in Lincoln's time, before the Civil War.

If Lincoln had taken the pathway of the legal profession in Kentucky as he did in Illinois, the wonderful opportunity and progress opened to him in the latter state were impossible to him in Kentucky. No person familiar with Kentucky and Illinois history during that period can doubt it. It was the aggressive struggle for expansion and existence of the slave power, intrenched in free territory, which gave the one great opportunity of his life to Lincoln.

Free speech and a free press were denied under the slave code—a curse which the best and greatest representatives of the South in its literature since the Civil War now freely concede,—made a southern literature impossible, before the Civil War.

Had Lincoln chosen the legal profession in Kentucky, he would in my judgment have been merely a vigorous, able lawyer, and a dangerous opponent in a jury trial, such as our western life of that period (as exists today) produced in nearly every judicial circuit; the representative of a class of men who when they are right, and properly prepared in advance, cannot be overmatched in the battle for the truth.

As this Bulletin goes to press I have been permitted to read some of the advance pages of Miss Tarbell's latest book, *In the Footsteps of Abraham Lincoln*, now being published in the Los Angeles Sunday *Times*, in which an interesting reference is made to the work done by this Society, bearing upon the particular line of investigation which I am in this address outlining with still fuller detail.

In the chapter dealing with Lincoln's opportunities while living in Indiana she gives much emphasis to the method of investigation outlined by this Society.

"There has been in the last few years a considerable amount of solid work done on the character of the men and women who settled this corner of the state; particularly important from the Lincoln standpoint, is that of Judge John E. Iglehart, of Evansville, Ind., president of the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society. Judge Iglehart's work gives us a better basis for judging of the calibre of the men under whose indirect influence at least Lincoln certainly came at this time, than we have ever had before. He has developed, with a wealth of detail, the character of the English settlement which started in 1817 north of Evansville and twenty-five or thirty miles west of where Lincoln lived—a settlement whose descendants are still among the leading people of the section.

"These English settlers, as well as the Scotch and Scotch-Irish that came with or followed them, were intelligent, thoughtful people, many of them with property, who had left their homes because of the dark prospects in Europe. Their small properties, they complained, were 'wearing to pauperism'. Moreover, the interference with their social and religious affairs were so constant and humiliating that they were willing to undergo any hardships to get a better chance and greater freedom in the world. The experiences of these men at home, the ideas that they brought with them, the way they went to work to build up communities—all of these things must have been matters of discussion at Jones' grocery in Gentryville and everywhere else that Lincoln met with men. The English settlers brought books, many of them, as Judge Iglehart shows, and it is his opinion that many of these books found their way into young Abraham Lincoln's hands."

A reference to a straw—a scrap of evidence from that English settlement (whatever may be its value I shall not judge) may be pardoned if I am required to give personal

testimony. In Herndon's *Lincoln* (1889), is a poem of eight stanzas of which he says Mrs. Crawford furnished him a manuscript copy, but which he says was composed by Abraham Lincoln previous to the marriage of his sister Sarah in 1826.

I quote them all in order that the question of the authorship of the poem may be tested in part by its "internal evidence", the method by which Gladstone solved to his own satisfaction the controversy as to the authorship of the Homeric poems.

"When Adam was created
 He dwelt in Eden's shade,
 As Moses has recorded,
 And soon a bride was made.
 Ten thousand times ten thousand
 Of creatures swarmed around
 Before a bride was formed,
 And yet no mate was found.
 The Lord then was not willing
 That man should be alone,
 But caused a sleep upon him,
 And from him took a bone.
 And closed the flesh instead thereof,
 And then he took the same
 And of it made a woman,
 And brought her to the man.
 Then Adam he rejoiced
 To see his loving bride
 A part of his own body,
 The produce of his side.
 The woman was not taken
 From Adam's feet we see,
 So he must not abuse her,
 That meaning seems to be.
 The woman was not taken
 From Adam's head, we know,
 To show she must not rule him—
 'Tis evidently so.
 The woman she was taken
 From under Adam's arm,
 So she must be protected
 From injuries and harm."⁴

4. Herndon's *Lincoln*, v. I, p. 49.

Since my active interest in historical study which began in 1916 in centennial work, my attention was much aroused in studying this poem, and I was astonished to read that it was claimed that Abraham Lincoln was the author of the poem. Every verse and every line in it were familiar to me, not from having seen it in print, (as I do not recall to have ever seen it except in Herndon's book,) but from my earliest memory, I remember hearing my mother recite the entire poem, so frequently that there is even now at the age of nearly seventy-five not an unfamiliar line in the poem. I have verified my own recollection by sending a copy of the entire poem to three persons, one 80 years old, who corroborate fully my memory as to this fact, all of whom were in their youth members of my own family, and heard what I heard.

At the last meeting of the executive committee of this Society, I handed to Mrs. Albion Fellows Bacon, (my cousin, who as a young girl was much in my mother's company,) the first volume of Herndon's book open at page 49 upon which this poem is printed in full; and, without other statement or any leading question, for the first time I ever mentioned the subject to her I asked her in the presence of several persons if she remembered ever having heard that poem. After looking at it, without a moment's hesitation she said, "From your mother."

Ten years ago I could have easily produced a dozen reliable witnesses to the same point, and I have no doubt I could now find others if it were necessary.

My mother was born in 1817 in Somerham, Huntingdonshire, England, and in her fifth year came with her widowed mother to her mother's brother, John Ingle, living on a farm near Saundersville, the "Capital" of the English settlement referred to by Miss Tarbell. Soon afterwards her mother married Mark Wheeler and removed to the Wheeler settlement not far from what is now known as the Hilliard settlement.

I have shown that this settlement during the third decade of the last century contained more than 100 families, and while the Saundersville, Wheeler and Hilliard neighborhoods embraced the larger portion of these settlers, they were scattered and owned farms from across the Posey County line on the west, some distance to the east into Warrick County

toward the Lincoln farm, nearer to it than the main settlement.

In this family were a large number of children of previous marriages, who had all been born in England, some of them in London where Mark Wheeler was a tradesman, some of whom were older than my mother, and she learned in her childhood and youth to recite from memory the English nursery rhymes and humorous English poetry as well as beautiful poems of Burns, Moore and Campbell, set to music, and as long as she lived, she could repeat them with much vivacity which always entertained and often amused her family and friends.⁵

Among these the poem which I remember as well as, if not better than any other, is the poem which Herndon says was composed by Abraham Lincoln.

I have always until I read this claim believed that this poem was English in its origin, and after a careful reading of Herndon's statement, I do not see any occasion to change my mind.

Full credence is given by Herndon to the statements of Mrs. Crawford, wife of Josiah Crawford, "Blue Nose" Crawford who is mentioned by him as furnishing the "few specimens of Abe's early literary efforts and much of the matter that follows in this chapter". (Ch. III.)

She was an old woman whose memory was subject to the infirmities of age and the only facts she produces beyond her memory of their recitation are copies of manuscript poems preserved by her.

That Lincoln recited these poems may be conceded and this would corroborate the memory of this old woman, about all I think that should be claimed, considering the faultiness of memory in old age as to events occurring in youth; but that Lincoln wrote the poem under consideration involves evidence which Herndon does not produce.

As to the internal evidence the author of the poem mentioned wrote with a facile pen and shows some imagination and the poem contains a moral from first to last scarcely to be expected from a backwoodsman of the West living under the most primitive conditions of culture. The poem came to me in a collection of English nursery rhymes and nonsensical

5. See *Indiana Magazine of History*, v. 15, p. 140, where the English Settlement is referred to on this subject.

humor which, though crude in literary finish, had the touch of the old world civilization.

Lincoln was only seventeen years old in 1826 when his sister was married, when Mrs. Crawford says the Lincoln family sang this poem at the wedding.

Lincoln's mind was slow in developing a facile use of words in writing. Herndon elsewhere says: "Mr. Lincoln's mind was not a wide, deep, broad, generalizing, and comprehensive mind; nor versatile, quick, bounding here and there, as emergencies demanded it. His mind was deep, enduring, and strong, running in deep iron grooves, with flanges on its wheels. His mind was not keen, sharp, and subtile; it was deep, exact, and strong."

The poem copied half a dozen pages later in Volume I of Herndon, beginning with the line,

"I will tell you a line about Joel and Mary,"

bears the internal evidence of the backwoods origin identifying also individuals by name, but the style of the two poems is very different. It seems to me that the evidence as to Lincoln's responsibility for this very coarse composition with little humor or imagination in the style is equally scant to justify the charge that Abraham Lincoln was the author of it.

I have no doubt that the poem of eight verses was recited by the young people in Mark Wheeler's family as English poetry. My mother lived in health until after Lincoln's death, and with her I traveled as a youth of sixteen from Evansville to Indianapolis to view the body of Lincoln in the state capitol where it lay in state on its way from Washington to Springfield, and I am sure that the authorship of this poem was not in her mind associated with Lincoln as the author.

If this scrap has any value, it seems to me to point to the fact that there was in some form in the twenties, a century or longer ago, a familiarity with the same current literature of this type in the Lincoln settlement and the British settlement both, and one probably obtained it from the other. Whether this poem is of English origin or not can be readily settled by proper inquiry. If it is English, the use of it by Herndon, the "authentic" historian of Lincoln, based on the testimony of one of his most "reliable" witnesses, illustrates the character and value of his history of Lincoln's life in Indiana.

In the line of Miss Tarbell's interpretation of the influence of the English settlement, I will add that when in 1823 my grandfather left Rough River in Ohio County, Kentucky, where my father was born in 1817, the English settlement was most flourishing, and probably well known in southern Indiana and in Kentucky. I do not believe that when he came to Indiana my grandfather settled by chance on the eastern edge of the English settlement.

All of his three sons, (the youngest born in Warrick County,) found their wives in the English settlement, and two out of his four daughters found their husbands there also, one of whom married John Erskine, a Scotch-Irishman and was the grandmother of Annie Fellows Johnston and Albion Fellows Bacon.

When this Society was organized, I said to my associates that if we carried out our plan as proposed, the American historians would have to come to us for the facts which we would develop. They have come sooner than I expected, particularly relating to "The Lincoln Inquiry," although the leading men in historical work and publications, in the State of Indiana also, are showing great interest in our progress and work. Upon this subject, the State Historical Commission in its announcement to Bulletin 16 uses the following language:

"Enrolled among its members are some of our ablest and most enthusiastic students and writers of Indiana history. The papers read at their regular meetings and the lines of historical investigation which are being pursued comprise one of the primary sources of our state's history."

This recognition of the character of our work and the character of our workers is a proper one, and of great satisfaction to us all.

There are present in this audience today men and women whom many of you know, worthy descendants in the third and fourth generation of pioneers of high character, who aided in founding this commonwealth. I make profert of them here today and say that their ancestors were as good a class of men and women as ever settled the beginnings of any American state.

The members of this Society present today embrace a good representation of the descendants of the pioneers who settled

Indiana in its beginning, and who come of a class of people whose history has not been written, and who never had any resemblance whatever to the social class described by Rev. Baynard Hall, Edward Eggleston, and the Lincoln historians of whom I have spoken. The appeal of family pride and state pride has been one of the influences which has thrown me to the surface in historical work. The reasons why the Lincoln historians have not been able to refer to the better class of Indiana life, without which no adequate history of Abraham Lincoln in Indiana can be written, as I have clearly shown, is that no such history is available, and for the first time, this Society, which is dealing directly with the facts involved in such Lincoln inquiry, is producing the material which we hope before long will furnish the basis for the missing chapter in the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Afternoon Session, Walnut Street Presbyterian Church
Two o'Clock.

President Iglehart: We have a paper, "More Lincoln Memories," by Mrs. Nancy Grigsby Inco, Rockport, which Mrs. Calder De Bruler Ehrmann, Rockport, will read in connection with her own paper, "The Grigsby."

THE GRIGSBYS

By Mrs. Calder D. Ehrmann (Bess V. Hicks), Rockport

Now that the search-light of investigation and publicity has been turned on the people with whom Abraham Lincoln came in contact, during his residence in Spencer County, it is well to consider the Grigsby family.

The formative years of his life were lived in Spencer County and the people who were his friends had an influence on his life. There was no other family, except the Gentrys, with whom Lincoln was so intimately associated as he was with the Grigsby family.

There has lived in Rockport, Spencer County, for many years, Mrs. Nancy Grigsby Inco, daughter of James Grigsby. She was born in 1846 on the Grigsby farm near Lincoln's old home and is now seventy-seven years of age. Her mind is clear and active and to her I owe this history of the Grigsby family.

Reuben Grigsby, Sr., came from North Carolina to Bowling Green, Kentucky, about 1805. In 1819 (three years after the Lincolns had come to Indiana) he with his wife and children immigrated to Indiana, settling about two miles from what is now the town of Lincoln City.

There were twelve children in the Grigsby family, five girls—Millie Goble, Elizabeth, Mary, Liddie and Nancy, and seven boys—Aaron, Charles, Reuben, James, William, Nathaniel, and Redman.

Aaron Grigsby was the oldest son and after moving to Indiana, he went some place in the northern part of the state to read law, expecting then to be a lawyer.

The younger children attended a school which was near Gentryville and this only for short periods. When the weather was bad, the pupils had to remain at home.

It was this same school that Abe Lincoln attended and the Grigsby boys in later life delighted to tell how Lincoln would sit on a log at recess time and with a piece of charcoal and a board, cipher and write his letters, instead of joining in the games of his comrades. The Grigsby farm was not far from the Lincoln home and there was much visiting back and forth.

When Aaron returned from where he had been studying law he brought with him a couple of law books, which interested Abe greatly. It was always said in the Grigsby family that Abe's first knowledge of law was gained through reading and studying these books of Aaron's.

Aaron later married Sarah Lincoln and the ties of friendship were further strengthened.

Lincoln spent many a day with the Grigsby boys at their home. In winter when the Grigsby boys visited at the Lincoln cabin they would usually find Abe seated on the end of a huge log whose other end would be burning in the fireplace.

James Grigsby, the father of Nancy Grigsby Inco, was born in 1813 and was six years old when the family moved to Indiana. He was four years younger than Lincoln and was the fifth child in his father's family.

Nathaniel was the ninth child in the family and Mrs. Inco has given me a photographic copy of a letter written by Lincoln to Nathaniel in 1860. I will read this letter and then a paper written by Mrs. Inco at the time of the dedication of the Sarah Grigsby monument.

I have the photograph of James Grigsby which she has given to our County Museum.

"Springfield, Ill., September 20, 1860.

"Nathaniel Grigsby, Esq.,

"My dear Sir:

"Your letter of July 19th was received only a few days ago, having been mailed by your brother at Gentryville, Ind., on the 12th of the month.

"A few days ago Gov. Wood of Quincy told me he saw you and that you said you had written me. I had not then received your letter.

"Of our three families who removed from Indiana together, my father, Squire Hall and John D. Johnston are dead, and all the rest of us are yet living. Of course the younger ones

are grown up, marriages contracted, and new ones born. I have three boys now, the oldest of which is seventeen years of age.

"There is now a Republican electoral ticket in Missouri so that you can vote for me, if your neighbors will let you. I would advise you not to get into any trouble about it.

"Give my kindest regards to your brother Charles.

"Within the present year I have had two letters from John Gorden who is living somewhere in Missouri, I forget exactly where, and he says his father and mother are both still living near him.

Yours very truly,
A. LINCOLN."

PAPER BY MRS. NANCY GRIGSBY INCO

Ladies and Gentlemen: As I have been asked to make a few remarks in regard to the Lincoln and Grigsby families, I will endeavor to do so. However I do not know that I can add anything of interest to what the most of you know, since there has been such a great interest created in the Lincoln family in this county, and so many of our pioneer residents have brought to light the many interesting things and facts relative to the earlier history of our county.

What I know of the Lincolns I have heard from my father who was a school mate of Abraham Lincoln and who lived near the Lincoln family. It is useless to go into details of that early school life as you have all heard about it many times.

Aaron Grigsby, my father's oldest brother married Sallie Lincoln, but she lived only a short time after the marriage and her husband died about three years later. They had a very bright future before them for the people of that day, and Sallie Grigsby was much thought of and loved by all her husband's people. She was given the best kind of burial that could be given and my father erected a sand stone marker to the graves of both she and her husband, and always looked after these graves as well as others of our family as long as he lived.

My father also attended the funeral of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and has often told me how poor the family was and how they took Nancy Hanks Lincoln to her grave on a rude home-

made sled. Her grave was always a place of great interest to me and my brother and sisters when we were children, and I have often gone to the grave which was enclosed by a rail pen in those days.

I might mention that the father of Aaron Grigsby lived with the Indians for about eight years. While his father was out looking for game, the Indians came to the house, and after killing three of the older children took Reuben, his mother and a small baby away with them. They soon discovered that the mother could not walk fast enough so they killed her and knocked the baby's brains out against a tree. For some reason they liked the small boy, and so they carried him on their backs. They grew very fond of him and used to take him on their hunting trips with them. He said he always wanted to go, and to tease him if they did not want him to go with them, they would insist on his drinking a quantity of bear oil before they would let him go along.

There are many things I have heard from my father that I do not remember well enough to tell here. However, it has been a great pleasure to me to bring these things of the past to light and it is needless to say that we Grigsbys are all very proud of the fact that Sallie Lincoln married into the Grigsby family, and are also proud of the prominent part they played in the early settlement of this county. It is also very gratifying to know that the younger people of this county are becoming more interested in knowing something of these good folk who have gone before and endured such hardships in order that their children and their children's children might enjoy the best of the earth.

I only hope this interest will continue and I am sure that Spencer County has as much or more to be proud of in an historical way as any county in our good state.

I thank you for your indulgence.

NANCY GRIGSBY INCO.

President Iglehart: The next paper, "John Pitcher," is by the Rev. John E. Cox, Boonville, a Baptist minister. He heard Judge Pitcher make a speech, and says that he talked with him on more than one occasion. Mr. Cox was in the regular army regiment of Colonel Thomas Gamble Pitcher, a son of the Judge.

JUDGE JOHN PITCHER

By (Rev.) John E. Cox, Evansville

I am a native of Robb Township, Posey County, Indiana.

My father was a Justice of the Peace, and so I heard many law-suits in my father's court. Of course there were usually opposing lawyers, who made earnest pleas. These lawyer battles were the red-letter events in our community. But when it became known that the noted Mt. Vernon lawyer, Judge John Pitcher, would appear in a certain trial, there was great excitement in our community and all the male population was there.

Judge Pitcher, I suppose, was about 70 years old at this time. His hair was considerably tinged with gray. He was a little stooped in posture, but was a distinguished-looking man. He took no part in the trial proceedings, but when it came his time to address the jury, he showed that he knew all about the case. He made no attempt to orate. He did deal in sarcasm or innuendo. He cast no reflections on the witnesses. At times he showed wit and humor. He stated his case simply and clearly. He talked to the jury familiarly in a conversational tone. He quoted law applying to the case; he quoted court decisions and once or twice he quoted the Bible. The address was short, pointed, effective. The jury evidently under the spell of this remarkable speech, decided the case in favor of the Judge's client.

When Judge Pitcher was about 85 years of age, I lived in Mt. Vernon. He had learned some way that I had recently been discharged from the regular army, and that I had belonged to regiment of which his son, Colonel Thomas Pitcher, was commander, so he came to visit me often, to talk of his son, whom he adored. The Judge and the Colonel resembled each other very much. Colonel Pitcher showed his father's dignity, his judicial powers and his intellectual attainments and endowments, as evidenced by the fact that for years he was superintendent of the West Point Military Academy. Judge Pitcher once told me that he had given two sons to his government.

When the Judge learned that I was a theological student, he proceeded to give me some fatherly advice. "Of course," he said, "your principal textbook will be the Bible; but you should also read and study the best romance literature, in or-

der to develop your imagination. I gave this advice to the Pentecost boys, and you know that they became noted preachers."

Then he continued: "Speaking of the Bible: I have studied it all my life and have found it a great help in my legal addresses, I have always urged young lawyers to study the Bible along with their law books."

He delighted to talk of his boyhood days when he was an associate of Abraham Lincoln, and it is the regret of my life that I did not make a note of all his remarks. I remember just one little scrap of our conversation. I think it was during his last visit that I asked what influences in his opinion, had most to do in shaping the character of Abraham Lincoln. I will never forget his answer:

"First, he had a good mother. Second, he had a good step-mother. Both women were above the average of their day and times, in character and intelligence. And both instilled into the mind of the boy an ambition to gain knowledge and make a man of himself."

The mental picture of this grand old man as he tottered from my home for the last time, will never be effaced as long as memory lasts.

President Iglehart: The next address will be by Mrs. Charles T. Johnson, Mount Vernon, on "Moses Ashworth, Pioneer of Indiana Methodism, and His Times."

MOSES ASHWORTH, PIONEER OF INDIANA METHODISM, AND HIS TIMES

By Mrs. Charles T. Johnson (Deidré Duff), Mount Vernon.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Association, and Friends: When Judge Iglehart asked me to prepare this paper, I thought at first I would have to refuse—not because I wished to be arbitrary, certainly not stubborn, but because a few years ago I had had occasion to discover that very little written history had been salvaged concerning Moses Ashworth; but Judge Iglehart urged that since his position was unique in Indiana Methodism, it seemed almost imperative to write a sketch of him. He insisted that I simply steep myself in the atmosphere of the period, then place this pioneer in his proper background. As I had already planned to spend mid-winter in the study

of the Mississippi Valley pioneer, Moses Ashworth seemed a fitting nucleus for just such study.

After many weeks of delightful research, I outlined, then wrote, this paper. It naturally divides itself into two parts,—Part I, dealing with the “Background”, Part II, with the “Man.” Part I is more or less technical and would be perhaps more interesting to the student of political science, but Judge Iglehart told us at the luncheon today that history and political science cannot be separated, and just yesterday I had the pleasure of hearing Professor Meyers of Princeton University who lectured at DePauw University. In the field of political science Professor Meyers has few peers, and throughout his discourse ran the ever recurrent statement, that it is impossible to study history without an understanding knowledge of political science. That is the only apology I have to offer for the first part of my paper.

Before I go further—I had the privilege of spending two days last week at work under the guidance of Professor William Warren Sweet of DePauw University. In study of the beginnings and growth of Methodism in the Mississippi Valley, he stands pre-eminent; and with his aid I was able to find a number of salient points.

PART I.

A comprehensive view of the life and times of Moses Vincent Ashworth, Pioneer of Indiana Methodism, involves a knowledge of the earliest immigration of settlers across the mountains into the wilderness of Kentucky and Tennessee, and later, into the wilderness of the Territory Northwest of the Ohio river, and the Territory of Indiana created out of it in 1800; also a tracing of the early movement of civil and religious liberty in the institution of the people, at a time when the agricultural democracy, upon free soil, was in process of formation; and finally, the introduction of religious institutions into Indiana Territory, where Moses Ashworth came, as the first circuit rider, to bring into it itinerant Methodism.

Gradually and slowly—whether by “Divine Right”—or the increasing wisdom of man—the sturdy pioneers are coming into their own Promised Land.

Critical students of political philosophy and unbiased historical research, no longer hold to the outgrown prejudices of the New England historian, (as voiced by President Dwight

of Yale and others of his time), but swing to the modern interpretation of Professor Frederick J. Turner and his school of followers of our own generation.

Readers whose minds have been historically alert, have found much food for thought in—not only books of unquestionable authorship, but in magazines, high class newspapers, political addresses, etc. During the recent war, the whole world was thrilled by the ideals of democracy as expressed by Woodrow Wilson, and Professor Dodd, one of his most recent biographers, says that Mr. Wilson was greatly influenced by Turner in his interpretation of American democracy. He constantly stressed the “Naturalization forces” developing into the spirit that has made possible the great America of today, setting forth neither wishes nor power, but *Democracy*, as our offering to the Nations of the Earth. In the *New York Times Book Review* of August 27, 1920, Dr. Archibald Henderson, critical historian, dwells upon the “*interesting historical inquiries*” necessary to a comprehensive study of western history. He briefly enumerates the distinctive characteristics of the American historians of the decades gone by—branding Draper as garrulous (unable to discriminate amidst the mass of material he possessed); all eastern interpreters as prejudiced; others dealing with but separate phases or periods; Roosevelt (the first man of modern times to see the “Man of the Western Waters” in his proper perspective) intensely romantic; unreservedly claiming for Frederick J. Turner, leadership, in the mode of treating historically, *the pioneer*.

Three other competent scholars voice this opinion in terms so positive they should be quoted here:

“The rough materials that are necessary to political thought, have hardly been garnered for this generation. A little of its economic background Professor Turner has taught us to understand, in what to an outsider seems the most pregnant thinking in American history in the past generation.” (H. J. Laski, President of the National Bank of Commerce in New York.)

“Professor Turner’s brilliant studies of the influence of the frontier upon American history have been conclusive in shaping modern thought upon American historical subjects.” (Guy Emerson—Professor of History in an English University.)

"These essays are a great contribution to American History. They afford for the first time, to my knowledge, that view of American Expansion which is so essential to an understanding of our history." (Harvard University Professor.)

While Turner works along the line of *mass* movements, he clearly states that they can only be properly interpreted or understood, when generalizations are made from a study of *individuals* as well as *groups*. Since individuals are but parts of the greater whole he demands that "*historians know more of life and human nature*" and he stresses two points as essential to correct historic portrayal:

(1) "Exhaustive research into every possible source of information—letters, documents, laws, tax lists, note books, travelers, dates, everything contemporaneous with the events described;—and

(2) A sound spirit of interpretation, rooted in a knowledge both broad and deep of the larger elements and basic features of the period."

Former historians had gone on the theory that all the great choices in life come from economic causes; but in the sturdy pioneer Turner catches the gleam of faith and reverence for great things, and through him it shows through as the very heart of history!

Ex-President Wilson once said, "You do not know the world until you know the men who have possessed it and tried its ways before ever you were given your brief run upon it." And later, "the great voice of America does not come from the seats of learning,—it comes in a manner from the hills and the woods and factories, rolling on and giving volume, until it comes to us from the homes of common men."

Much study of other continents has already been done, and attention is now turned by technical historians to the *American* factors.

In the *Life and Letters* of the late Walter H. Page, he says, "the unchanging and unchanged resolve that every human shall have his opportunity for his utmost development is the fundamental article in the Creed of American Democracy."

If it is the privilege of every man to rise to the *full* measure of his own nature, under conditions of social mobility we know that the Westerner has been the type and master of our national life; free soil, free institutions, plain living, high

thinking—these conditions he must accept or perish! The conquest of all obstacles, the results, (with the processes accompanying them), form the nucleus in our study of the political, economic, social and religious history of America. It has been conceded, that the "Frontier" is the line of the most rapid and effective Americanization, that it "broke the bond of custom," offered new experiences, and called out new institutions and activities.

What, then, and where is the American "Frontier"? Professor Turner says it is a "meeting point between savagery and civilization," lying at the "hither end of free land—the richest free gift ever spread out before civilized man."¹

The European frontier of our knowledge was a fortified boundary line running through dense populations, while a study of the American type shows us a shifting, ever advancing line, extending (in the 17th century) from the Atlantic seaboard, across the Alleghenies, into the Mississippi Valley, over the Great Plains and Rockies, to the new line of California.

He tells us, that in 1890, the great historic movement of colonization closed—that there was no frontier after that date!

American development is explained when we study the existence of a free land, its continuous recession and the advance of American settlement westward. American institutions have been compelled to adapt themselves to the changes involved in crossing a continent, winning a wilderness, and developing at each turn of its progress out of the primitive, economic and political conditions of the frontier into the complexity of city life. In each new area there has been that forced development from the primitive to the complex, a continuous re-touching the simplicity and primitive life and all that it has involved. This condition undoubtedly furnishes the most dominant forces in American character! It forms the nucleus of the history of the American Nation. Directly or indirectly these experiences shaped the life of the eastern as well as the western states and even reacted upon the Old World, influencing the direction of its thought and its progress; this experience he considers fundamental, in the destiny of the American commonwealth.

1. Turner: "The Significance of the Frontier in American History." *Annual Report of the American Historical Association* 1893, p. 200.

A detailed study of this migration is as fascinating as any fiction of heroic times; and a brief outline of its successive steps, is imperative in an historical and psychological interpretation of the political, social and religious life of its peoples.

Steadily, the frontier (or edge of settlement) advanced, carrying with it individualism, democracy and naturalization. The wave of migration was uneven—following the outlines made by geology; colonization was influenced by the location of rivers, valleys and passes; unequal centers of attraction (favorable soil, salt springs, mines, army posts); and by Indian resistance.

The seventeenth century frontiers had advanced up the Atlantic river courses, just beyond the fall line; and the tide-water region became the settled area.

By the first half of the eighteenth century traders had followed the Delaware and Shawnee Indians to the Ohio, and Governor Spottswood of Virginia crossed the Blue Ridge; the Scotch-Irish and Palatine Germans advanced up the Shenandoah Valley, western part of Virginia, and along the Piedmont regions of the Carolinas; the Germans in New York pushed up the Mohawk to the German Flats. By the time of the Revolution, the frontier line had crossed the Alleghenies into Kentucky and Tennessee, and the upper waters of the Ohio were settled.

According to the census of 1790, the continuous settled area included most of New York (along the Hudson and up the Mohawk near Schenectady), eastern and southern Pennsylvania, Vermont, across the Shenandoah Valley, the Carolinas and eastern Georgia. Beyond these settled regions were the few small settlements of Kentucky, Tennessee and the Ohio; isolated by the mountains—no transportation facilities—improvements had to be planned, and so the West as a self-conscious section began to evolve.

By 1820, the settled area included Ohio, Southern Indiana, Illinois, Southeast Missouri, and half of Louisiana.

By the middle of the nineteenth century, steam navigation along the water routes, opening of the Erie Canal and the western extension of cotton, demanded space for development; and the frontier line not only reached the Great Lakes, but pushed on to the eastern boundaries of Indian Territory, Ne-

braska and Kansas, skipping the Great Plains and Rockies to the new line of Utah, Oregon and California.

By 1880, the area had pushed into northern Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, along the Dakota River, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Montana and Idaho.

Dating historically then, from Massachusetts Bay, the frontier had spread along the old West (which was the Atlantic Coast), advanced in successive steps down the Ohio Valley and the Mississippi, raced across the Rockies to the far West, rebounded to Alaska with the discovery of gold, and at last by 1890, American settlement, though scattered, could claim no frontier line.

By this time, Turner declares that the frontier had created a type of man which has become the American Race; and with the victory of Andrew Jackson he places the first definite conquest of the ideals of frontier democracy "to which the East has ever since slowly yielded!" (If it is conceded by the modern historian, that the frontier of greatest importance in political history, is the Kentucky, Tennessee-Ohio River region, then we as a society of research in Southwestern Indiana, have a field before us, the richness of which has seldom, if ever, been equaled.)

When George Washington appeared at the French camp in the edge of the "Great Valley", demanding the relinquishment of all French camps in the name of Virginia, he was demanding for English speaking people, the right to occupy and rule the real center of American resource and power. Following his second coming came Braddock and his crushing defeat, and finally in 1763, peace—when the King of France yielded all of Canada to Great Britain, and all of Louisiana east of the Mississippi, except the district and city of New Orleans which was given Spain.

England, inconsiderate and harsh in her colonial policies, forced them in 1775 to their first "Declaration of Colonial Rights." On June 15th, Washington was chosen Commander-in-Chief of the Army; on July 1, 1776, those "Rights" were reiterated in a Declaration of Independence, and the war between England and America raged on until September 3, 1783, when peace brought the first "public recognition of the equal rights of man."

At the close of the Revolution seven states (New York, Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, the Carolinas, Connecticut, and

Massachusetts) were claiming title to a great section of land west of the populated territory (according to charters granted—giving them rule from sea to sea). A committee was appointed to draft Articles of Confederation, but all states were required to sign, before the articles became effective. They finally agreed to transfer their claims to the National Government, thus making it possible to offer its lands at moderate prices to immigrants and settlers. A large tract (lying north of the Ohio River and east of the Mississippi) became known as the Northwest Territory, and by 1786 the whole of this wide domain passed into the hands of the Federal Government.

A number of Revolutionary soldiers formed the Ohio Land Company, and offered to buy from the government 5,000,000 acres of land on the Ohio River.

This was without difficulty sold to them, and certain conditions for government were provided. While the convention that formed the National Constitution was in session in Philadelphia, Congress was in session in New York City. It performed an Act, second only in importance to the crowning act of the Convention at Philadelphia. On July 11, 1787, a committee (of which Nathan Dane of Massachusetts was chairman) reported "An ordinance for the Government of the Territory of the United States Northwest of the Ohio."²

The report, embodied in a bill was original in its colonial policy. It contained a special promise that:

(1) The estates of all persons dying intestate in the territory, should be equally divided among all the children, or next in kin in equal degree, thus striking a fatal blow to the unjust law of primogeniture.

(2) (Article VI) It also provided there should "be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been fully convicted."³

(3) (Article I) Provides "No person, demeaning himself in a peaceable and orderly manner, shall ever be molested on account of his mode of worship or religious sentiments, in the said territory."⁴

(4) (Article III). "Religion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of man-

2. Dillon: *History of Indiana*, p. 597.

3. *Ibid.*, p. 601.

4. *Ibid.*, p. 600.

kind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged," etc.⁵

The ordinance was adopted on the 13th, after adding a clause relative to the "reclamation of fugitives from labor" similar to that incorporated a few weeks later in the National Constitution.

This ordinance, and the fact that Indian titles to 17,000,000 acres of land here, had lately been extinguished by treaty with several of the tribes, (The Six Nations, Wyandottes, Delawares and Shawnees) caused a sudden and great influx of settlers along the northern bank of the Ohio. The Northwest Territory so established, included the present states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. Within one year, perhaps 20,000 men, women and children passed down the Ohio, and over the mountains, to become settlers upon its banks. They came, in their own language, for the purpose of "extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, which form the basis whereon those republics, their laws and constitutions are erected."

The great western route of travel in the eighteenth century (the irresistible movement of western migration, passing over the "Wilderness Road") carried with it a powerful influence, far reaching in effect—the Boones—unto the third generation, epitomizing this advance. The forest clearings "proved to be the seed plants of American Character." Here was the elevation of a plain people, entering vast spaces, with imperial resources, creating new social conditions, by the application of old institutions and ideas to the transforming influence of free land; here could they dream dreams and behold new visions.

One more decisive step, fostered by the Jeffersonians and a few Federalists, like Jay, the Adamses and Pinckney, became an effective force in acquisition of new territory and a final triumph of the new frontier. The Louisiana Purchase started the United States on an independent career as a world power "free from entangling alliances." When France was driven out of America in 1802, she handed over to Spain the territory known as Louisiana, occupying both sides of the lower Mississippi. During the Spanish occupation, many Americans had settled along its river banks. In 1800, Spain gave it back to France by secret treaty, the treaty not becoming known

5. *Ibid.*

until 1802. The Spanish Intendant, withdrew the right of depositing produce, etc., at New Orleans, and the settlers higher up demanded New Orleans be seized by American troops. To prevent possible war, President Jefferson entered into negotiations with France, for the purchase of the whole territory. Napoleon gladly consented, and for \$15,000,000 Louisiana was ceded to the United States in 1803 all territory embracing the modern states of Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota west of the Mississippi River, North Dakota, Nebraska, nearly all of Kansas, Oklahoma, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado (east of the Rocky Mountains) and Louisiana, including New Orleans. Thus, with the election of Jefferson, the western frontier was in sympathy with the National Government, its wishes more powerful than the east. The pioneers stood for "an extreme Americanism" in social, political, and religious matters alike. The trend of American people was with them, not away from them.

Professor Albert Bushnell Hart has said that "The Mississippi Valley yields to no region in the world, in interest, romance and promise for the future. Here if anywhere is the real America—the field, the theater, the basis of civilization of the Western world. The history of the Mississippi Valley is the history of the United States."

When Emile Coué recently visited the Middle West, he frankly admitted a noticeable difference between the atmosphere of the eastern states and those of the Mississippi Valley. He said, "Here the pulse of the people beats quicker, unsteadier, impatient to outstrip time itself. It is reflected in their drawn faces, rugged mouths and restless eyes. Strong of character? Yes. Relentless of purpose, too, and eager to meet and overthrow the obstacles." He spoke of the amazing growth of the nation and referred to the pioneer as "giants in achievements, reckless and extravagant in their outpouring of energy because of their haste to turn primitive settlements into organized states and transform industrious communities into cities of industry and thriving trade. The force of suggestion emanates from them and still works. The present generation is still under its influence, multiplied a hundred thousand fold by the accumulation of the idea of haste in the transmission of the suggestion from individual to individual. The suggestive force of this kind moved from

east to west. That seems to explain adequately the still red hot, fast-throbbing energy of the western cities of today."

Perhaps a hundred and fifty years had passed between the discovery of America and the entrance of white settlers into the Ohio Valley. The picturesque early occupants of these regions, Mound Builders, Indians, French explorers, trappers, traders, and Jesuit missionaries preceded in turn this great influx into the free lands of America. When the pressure in the east became too great, they escaped to this new Mecca which offered them a vision of high hope and opportunity to grow to the full measure of their capacity. Through all the materialism of the pioneers, however, there has always shone the heart of the idealist.

They came mostly from the upland south; with the main current from the Carolinas—Irish, Scotch, English, Germans, with a few Huguenots, Swedes and Hollanders. With a fierce courage and eager desire to brave danger, they clutched the inherited land and within a generation, were welded together into one people, which by the next generation came out from the crucible, one speech, one thought, one character.

In study of this social evolution, it has been discovered that the American intellect owes its most striking characteristics to these pioneer traits. Life for them was one long struggle, keeping them constantly at war, or fearing it. Midst untold hardships, they fought the wilderness dangers—droughts, forest fires, mosquitoes, snakes, wolves, panthers, Indians. Essentially men who dwelt alone in their cabins in the forests, with keen minds and gigantic resolutions, they developed into men of heroic mold. All qualities were intensified by their enforced mode of living. While there were among these men the extremes of aristocratic southern cavalier, and the thriftless, indolent emigrant or redemptioner, in the main there existed but the pristine racial elements of Anglo-Saxon type. In a land of such sharp contrasts, their duties became clear and plain; the lessons first learned—self help and proffered aid to one's neighbor. With reckless energy, fierce courage, buoyancy and exuberance; a quick capacity for judgment and action; practical, inventive turn of mind, and a deeply religious instinct, these plain lives and homely annals glorify their place in history.

The simplicity of primitive conditions, now acting upon the complex European heritage of the eastern frontier, served

only as a meagre guide for the settlement of the West's most intricate problems. The Indian question, disposition of public domain, internal communication, aggressive expansion, defense, educational and religious requirements, had to be solved, by eastern legislators. The narrow Colonial policies of pre-Revolutionary days would no longer serve their needs, they required the highest skill of men like Jackson, Clay, Harrison, Lincoln, and others.

This demand for the highest and most vitalizing activities of the general government, automatically placed the Middle West as the most typically American section. And we of to-day know that with the solution of their frontier problems emerged the American World Power of today!

PART II.

As far back as 1835, Dr. Lyman Beecher said, "It is equally plain that the religious as well as political destiny of our nation is to be decided by the West—the West demanding for its moral preservation the immediate and universal action of those institutions which discipline the mind and arm the conscience and the heart."

So if we add to these aspects of early backwoods democracy its spiritual qualities, we shall more easily understand them. Turner says, "Both the stump and the pulpit were centers of energy, electric cells capable of starting wide-spreading fires. They felt their religion and democracy and were ready to fight for it"; they were emotional, enthusiastically optimistic, with faith in themselves and their destiny. When they met together in political or religious association, the essential isolation of their lives furnished a rich foundation for an emotional responsiveness, and Viscount Bryce's term of "high religious voltage" is essentially applicable to them. With good fellowship, understanding, sympathy, their log rollings, house raisings, husking bees, apple parings, weddings, dances, camp meetings—this informal association replacing governmental compulsion—were but worthwhile games to be "played to the end."

At last the modern historian has admitted that "the religious aspects of the frontier make a chapter in our history which needs study."

It is not within the range of this paper to discuss (other than superficially) the histories of the various sects that bat-

tled for the glory of God, along the banks of the old Ohio into the depths of its primeval forests and on to the modest clearings of its emigrants.

It is rather with the pioneers of Methodism, and one of her humble laborers in this field, that the writer is confined.

Thayer, an expert modern biographer, tells us "the essential subject of the biographer is the soul of man," and that the excellence and interest of that biography does not depend upon the high position of its subject, but that the "heart must be plucked out" no matter how humble; that "any man who is interesting may be a proper subject, if drawn in the atmosphere that will most fittingly reveal him." He considers totality the biographer's aim. If the subject stands out from the masses, is in any degree unique, is drawn with sympathy and love, he is worthy of our best efforts. And so, do we approach Moses Vincent Ashworth, Pioneer of Indiana Methodism.

Rev. F. C. Holliday tells us, that "the first pastoral charge in the territory of Indiana, was Silver Creek Circuit in Clark's Grant (now Clark County), under the ministry of the Rev. Moses Ashworth. The first meeting house in the territory was built in what was then, and is still known, as the Robertson neighborhood, near Charlestown. Mr. Ashworth was an enterprising and energetic man. Three meeting houses were built in this settlement during the first year of its history, and although they were necessarily cheap log houses, they evidenced the piety and liberality of the people. They made provision for the public worship of God, as good as they were able to make for their own families. Mr. Ashworth returned, at the end of the year, 188 members." And so Methodism claims for Moses Ashworth a position unique in the procession of those lion-hearted men who laid the foundations for Christian civilization in our Northwest Territory.

"The Methodist Church prospered at this time," said Peter Cartwright, "more than any other since the Apostolic Age." And according to Holliday "such energy, devotion and toil, such cheerful self-denial and unostentatious heroism, as was displayed by the early Methodist ministers in the West, has never been equalled in the history of our country, except perhaps, in the case of the early Jesuit missionaries of the Romish Church."

Historians have detailed the life and influence of the Jesuits in Canada and along the Great Lakes, but little attention has been given to these early Protestant disciples. They preached everywhere—in log cabins, forests, bar-rooms, forts—finding the seal of their apostleship in the multitudes that were converted to God through their instrumentalities.

“Following the tide of immigration westward, their plain preaching kept the religious sentiment alive and thus laid a sure foundation for civil government in the Western states.” (Milburn).

But who were these aggressive messengers of salvation? From whence did they come, and whither were they going?

Back to Christ Church, England, and Lincoln College, must we go for one of those answers. For within their walls was Methodism slowly fostered. A young aristocrat named John Wesley, formed a study club of four, whose ultimate purpose was to save their own souls and next the souls of others. From this searching study of the Bible and earnest examination of self, a whole university was aroused, then a kingdom ablaze, until its influence extended to the new world across the seas. The little band of four, and its adherents, were sneered at as “religious buffoons,” “Bible moths,” and “Curators of a Holy Club,” “Methodists!”

In an address to George II, however, Wesley defines a Methodist as “one who lives according to the methods laid down in the Bible” and, undaunted, he continued his study with added zeal.

In 1732, a colony under Oglethorpe, had been established in America and named for the English king. The Governor—a humanitarian,—was bent upon reforming the conditions of debtors’ prisons and founding a new home in a new world, where released prisoners might find a happy refuge.

To this American settlement (with the fifth migration) October 18, 1735, came John Wesley and his brother Charles. While from his journal, we find them falling short in saving other souls, John Wesley declared it prepared the way for a theology radiant with the life of a new spiritual experience, and broad as the charity of God. Not until May 24, 1738, however, after continual prayer and Bible study, at Nettleton Court (on the east side of Aldergate Street), came the real conversion of John Wesley, which was to revolutionize the whole character and method of his ministry. He wrote in his

journal "The spirit of the Lord is upon me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and set at liberty them that are bruised; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." He preached with so disturbing a force and directness, they began to fear a revolution. "Statesman, saint and missionary," he preached with a vigor, an explicitness, a directness of phrase and application that so shocked his Churchmen, they shut him out from their pulpits. Hurt to the core, still loving his Church, but loving God the more, he made the kingdom his parish, rode his horse along the highways, into the collieries, tin mines, fields and fishing villages. His power over men came not from his gift of oratory, but Truth to him had been revealed, and with his efficiency, it carried the power to save. He spoke with two-edged swords, cutting the consciences of men; an evangelist and a master of affairs, unquestionably this man altered, and in his day, governed the spiritual history of England and the English-speaking races across the sea.

Woodrow Wilson tells us "everything that made for the regeneration of the times seemed to link itself with Methodism. The great impulse of human feeling which marked the closing years of the century, seemed in no small manner to spring from it; the reforms of prisons, the agitation for the abolition of slavery, the establishment of missionary and Bible societies, the introduction into life, and even unto law, of pity for the poor, compassion for those who must suffer. The noble philanthropies and reforms which brighten the annals of the nineteenth century had their spiritual birth in the eighteenth. Wesley had carried Christianity to the masses of the people, had renewed the mission of Christ himself, and all things began to take color from what he had done."

Until his 88th year—"Take care of the rising generation," he cried,—*"I have a brother who is my own soul!"*

"The evangelization of the world will always be the road to fame and power, but only those those who take it, seeking not these things, but the kingdom of God; and if the evangelist be what John Wesley was, a man poised in spirit, deeply conversant with the natures of his fellowmen, studious of the truth, sober to think, prompt and yet not rash to act, apt to speak without excitement and yet with a keen power of connection, he can do for another age what John Wesley did for

the eighteenth century." (From Woodrow Wilson—John Wesley's Place in History.)

In a letter of John Wesley's in 1769, he speaks of the Three Methodist Societies then existent in America—Philadelphia, New York, and one 12 miles from New York. He asked therefore, that the English Conference send suitable leaders for broadening the range of their labors. In 1770 the name of Francis Asbury was read out at the Conference. He was commissioned to go as First Superintendent with Dr. Coke, Superintendent for the Church of God in America. They were ordained and consecrated for their mission "in full liberty, simply to follow the Scriptures and primitive church; and we judge it best that they should stand fast in the liberty wherewith God has so strangely made them free." Francis Asbury became the ruling spirit among American Methodists—their first bishop—"with a continent for a diocese and for labors, sufferings and success, by any name in modern Christianity, Washington was not better entitled to be called Father of his Country, than Francis Asbury, its Apostle." "He was the foremost soldier of the Cross" that ever carried the standard here, traveling more than forty years on horseback, from Maine to Georgia, from Massachusetts to the far West, a distance of perhaps 300,000 miles. He built, almost entirely with his own wisdom, tirelessness and direction, churches, schools and colleges; established sound views of morality, and lofty purity in all forms of life; he supervised all churches, annually attended conferences, maintained a harmony unquestioned, and labored so untiringly for the saving of souls, that he brought almost a million men to Christ.

Surrounded by men much akin to him, he infused into them his spirit; the sublimity of his character, created for them an ideal, and gave them power to bear the "means of grace to starving pioneers."

His efficient plan of organization fitted well the flux of scattered population—his pulpit, a saddle, a cabin, a wigwam or a forest. Episcopal—in its form of government—a hierarchy with a Bishop at its head, the western country was laid out in circuits and districts, and into each of these at intervals came the circuit rider; then at longer periods the presiding elder, and once a year the Bishop, while to their camp meetings, quarterly meetings and conferences people

flocked by the hundreds. In this organized working for the glory of God and the spread of the Gospel, they exerted a powerful influence for religion and for righteousness—an army drilled and complete, soldiers of the law, militant in speech, manner and song—waging a war against wickedness!

John E. Iglehart—in his “History of Methodism in South-western Indiana”—has comprehensively narrated the origin and growth of Methodism in this portion of the Northwest Territory, and only the salient points as they touch upon the life of the Rev. Moses Ashworth will be narrated here.

Milburn, the blind Congressional Chaplain, spoke of coveting the esteem and confidence of the Methodists more than that of generals or kings. As he sat in Congress with Adams and Webster thumping loudest on the desks in front of them, he exclaimed, “Can it be possible that all these men have taken lessons in eloquence from the old Methodist preachers and exhorters of the West?” (For at last the western style of oratory had become American!)

Among those who faithfully tried to carry out the life teachings of Bishop Asbury, were Peter Cartwright, Moses Ashworth and John Shrader—all of whom were ordained by him. All were diligent students of the Bible, learned in hymns and human nature. Time was short and souls must be saved. These simple-hearted, firmly believing preachers, went through wind, storms, fields and forests, preaching in a style adapted to its people. Peter Cartwright says that “among the thousands engaged in building up the work, not more than fifty had more than a common school education, and not *one* ever trained in a theological school or Biblical institute. Christ had no literary College or University, no theological school or Bible Institute, nor did he require his first ministers to memorize his sayings and sermons, but simply to tarry at Jerusalem till they were endowed with power from on high, when under the baptismal power of the Holy Ghost should be brought to their remembrance all things whatsoever he had commanded them.”

They were preachers, statesmen, educators—doctrinal in their teachings, but preaching a hopeful theology of justification by faith, repentance, universal redemption, regeneration, love, and conversion; sharp-witted, readers of men, they offered an appropriate religious food. To men who were weary of labor they pointed the way to a haven of rest.

As an organized power, Methodism had a later start in Indiana than did the Presbyterians, Baptists and Quakers. Vincennes and Corydon, as seats of government, attracted attention particularly to the southwestern part of the State. While Clark's Grant, a large tract of land about 150,000 acres, given by Virginia to George Rogers Clark and his soldiers, in recognition of their services, had been settled by the English, from Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and the Carolinas, some were already Methodists, though many were of other faiths.

From 1814-1820 the Southwestern part of the country developed rapidly. By that time Frederick Rapp had reached New Harmony with his Communists, and a few Methodists among them formed a nucleus for the "circuit rider's" efforts, later on.

In the corner of what is now the eastern part of Indiana, the Valley of the Whitewater was particularly well inhabited—the Treaty of Greenville, 1794, following General Wayne's campaign against the Indians, having opened it up to home-seekers. One center, a little south of the present city of Richmond, was called the "Kentucky Settlement". The other, above the present town of Brookville, was called the "Carolina Settlement" because of the emigration from those respective states.

The Carolina Settlement, containing a goodly percentage of Methodists, asked that a regular travelling preacher be sent them. In response to this petition, Joseph Oglesby was sent in March, 1806, to form a new circuit west of the great Miami, and this circuit became known as Whitewater. It extended from the Grey and Crume cabins, located in the present town of Hamilton, Ohio, along the banks of the river of that name, in Indiana. Several other preaching places were opened by him in western Ohio, and by 1808 under the influence of Selah Paine and Thomas Helliems, circuit riders who succeeded him, the preaching centers had increased to twenty.

Previous to this, however, a few Methodist ministers had entered Indiana Territory and preached the word of God.

In 1801, Rev. Samuel Parker and Edward Talbot held a two days' meeting at Springfield.

In 1802, Wm. McKendree, presiding Elder, established class meetings at Charlestown and New Chapple.

In 1803, Benjamin Laken added two more in that neighborhood.

In 1804, Peter Cartwright and Benjamin Laken, while on the Salt River and Shelbyville Circuit, preached at Bro. Robertson's Chapel, 4 miles from the present town of Charlestown and 8 miles from the present town of Jeffersonville.

By 1806, the Ohio-Indiana Circuit of Whitewater was established, and in 1807, the Western Conference sent Moses Ashworth to Silver Creek where he restored the Robertson Chapel in which Peter Cartwright preached his first Indiana sermon and added two more within Clark's Grant. Thus Moses Ashworth established (as Prof. Sweet says) "the first entire circuit in Indiana Territory" and with its organization, Methodism in Indiana started on its separate career!

During the years of 1845 and 1846, the *Western Christian Advocate* published a series of thirty-seven articles, prepared by the Rev. Allan Wiley. They dealt with the "Introduction and Progress of Methodism in Southeastern Indiana." From the eighteenth article (found in the issue of May 1, 1846) we quote the following,—“In the fall of 1807, the appointments on the west of the Ohio River were separated from the Salt River Circuit, to which William Burk was returned, and Moses Ashworth appointed to the new circuit. Ashworth commenced his work by enlarging the circuit, by visiting and talking in many and distant places. A local preacher by the name of Chitwood, who settled about ten miles west of Madison, on what they there call White River (being a branch of the Muscatatuck), told me some years ago that he moved to that vicinity the last day of 1807 and that Ashworth preached at night and formed a society. This society seemed to grow from year to year; for when I commenced traveling in that part of the country in 1825, I found a large society in the neighborhood, and a log meeting house which was beginning to decay. He also formed another society, a number of miles farther down the same stream some three or four miles west of where the town of Paris is built now. A son and son-in-law of old Brother Robertson, the Methodist pioneer of 'the Grant,' had settled there and invited the preacher to visit them, which he did, and formed a small society, which has continued to flourish until the present day (January 24, 1846). When I first knew this society, they had an old log meeting house, which had become too small for the densely populated region, and

they have superseded the old meeting house for a new and larger brick house, still retaining the name of Mt. Pisgah. How many intermediate societies between these upper ones and Jeffersonville were formed, I have not learned. In the winter of this year, there was a gracious revival on the circuit, which was aided by the labors of James Garner, a local preacher; . . . he joined most cordially with Moses Ashworth, to spread and sustain the blessed revival of the new circuit. The return of the members for Silver Creek, at the close of its first year's separate existence, was 188."

"In the rise of Methodism in the old Northwest, no better subject can be found than this man. His figure stands out in the heroic age when history was but dimly recorded."

Among the settlers pouring over the mountains and following the Wilderness Road, came John Ashworth and his wife Nancy Vincent, exchanging their home in Culpeper County, Virginia, for a new one in Sullivan County, Tennessee. With their three children, Moses, Nathan and Sally, they migrated later to the environs of the present city of Nashville. Moses Vincent Ashworth, born in 1783, and reared by English Puritan parents, was early trained for the chosen work of his maturity. The name of his first wife has not been recorded, but by the time he entered the Western Conference, his family consisted of a son and daughter, whose heirs, in their generations, became leading lawyers of Nashville.

Professor Sweet, in the preface to his *Rise of Methodism in the West*, has embodied within its pages, the old "Journal" of the Western Conference. He considers this Journal "the most important historical document relating to the establishment of Methodism in the Mississippi Valley. The heart of Methodism lies in the Mississippi Valley; there live the bulk of her membership; there she has performed her greatest achievements and there perhaps, lies her most brilliant future."

The Journal records the history of the Western Conference, from the years 1801-1811, under the inspiring leadership of Bishop Asbury. Ordained by Bishop Asbury in 1805 we find Moses Ashworth assigned, with two others, to the Salt River and Shelby Circuit. In 1806 he was transferred to Wayne in the district of Cumberland. In 1807 he came to Silver Creek in Clark's Grant, in 1808 transferred to Holston District, and in 1809 after a three month's ministry in Holston he married

Eliza Davis-Jenkins (cousin of Jefferson Davis) ; and according to the rules laid out by Wesley and promoted by Asbury, he became after that, a located preacher, thus automatically severing his connection with the Western Conference.

In 1817, we find him attached once more, at Lebanon, Tennessee. With this exception, he evidently served, during the interim of 1809-1829, as a located preacher in western Tennessee, taking what time he could from his fast-growing family, for preaching the Gospel he loved so well. When we discover the set fee provided for the maintenance of the early Methodist ministers, we can more readily understand the wisdom of this step.

From the years 1784-1800, an annual salary of \$64.00 was provided. In 1793 traveling-expenses had been provided for. From 1800-1816, the fee was increased to \$80.00 and expenses, and in 1820, it was raised to the extravagant sum of \$100.00.

The labors attached to such circuits as White Water and Silver Creek can only be appreciated when the scope and the routine of work are known. To cover the circuits required from four to six weeks, with preaching appointments usually held at 12 o'clock noon. Besides preaching once a day, there were the afternoon class meetings and prayer services at night, and as has been explained, pulpits ranged all the way from churches to bar-rooms. The Quarterly Meetings extending from Friday to Monday, were always great events, with sermons, sacraments and prayer, often attracting settlers by the thousands.

Sweet and Holliday tell us that "Moses Ashworth closed his year at Silver Creek with a camp meeting which was held in sight of the old Robertson Chapel with the Rev. William Burke, Presiding Elder. This was a novel affair in our new country and called together a vast number of human beings."

True it was, that in 1800 seven sister denominations had held a joint revival at "Cane Ridge" in the southern part of Kentucky. It was estimated that from 12,000 to 25,000 people attended this first meeting of its kind in America, and that its place in ecclesiastical history ranks second only to the Day of Pentecost! At least, it kindled a religious flame that spread to the states near by.

Much has been written regarding the psychology of these early camp meetings and revivals, and whether we accept the liberal interpretation of Theodore Roosevelt, or the unsym-

pathizing criticism of Mr. Hall as detailed in Woodburn's "*New Purchase*"—we know that the final influence of these "feasts of the Tabernacle" was beneficent.

The testimony of William Henry Harrison "based on his experience with and a knowledge of Cartwright, Ashworth, Shrader, and others, must always stand as the judgment of a competent historian."

"Who and what are they? I answer, entirely composed of ministers who are technically denominated "circuit riders," a body of men who, for zeal and fidelity in the discharge of the duties they undertake, are not exceeded by any others in the world. I have been a witness of their conduct in the western country for nearly forty years. They are men whom no labor tires, no scenes disgust, no danger frightens, in the discharge of their duty. To gain recruits for their Master's service, they sedulously seek out the victims of vice in the abode of misery and wretchedness. The vow of poverty is not taken by these men, but their conduct is precisely the same as it would have been had they taken one. Their stipulated pay is barely sufficient to enable them to perform the services assigned to them. With much the larger portion, the horse which carries them is the only animated thing which they can call their own, and the contents of their valise, or saddle-bags, the sum total of their earthly possessions.

"If within the period I have mentioned, a traveler on the western frontier had met a stranger in some obscure way, or assiduously urging his course through the intricacies of a tangled forest, his appearance staid and sober, and his countenance indicating that he was in search of some object in which his feelings were deeply interested, his apparel plain but entirely neat, and his baggage adjusted with peculiar compactness, he might be almost certain that the stranger was a Methodist preacher, hurrying on to perform his daily task of preaching to separate and distant congregations; and should the same traveler, upon approaching some solitary, unfinished, and scarcely habitable cabin, hear the praises of the Creator chanted with peculiar melody, or the doctrines of the Saviour urged upon the attention of some six or eight individuals with the same energy and zeal that he had seen displayed in addresses to a crowded audience of a populous city, he might be certain, without inquiry, that it was the voice of the Methodist minister."

In the year of 1829, Ashworth moved from Tennessee, to Posey County, Indiana, bringing with him his wife, Eliza Davis-Jenkins, and their six children. Holliday and Sweet both tell us:

“Among the agencies honored in the early planting of churches in Indiana, and in carrying forward revival efforts, local preachers and exhorters occupied a prominent place, and were worthy of honorable mention. Many of the former had been traveling preachers, who had been compelled to locate for want of a support, and who continued to labor with efficiency. Such was Moses Ashworth, the Apostle of Methodism in southern Indiana. He settled in Posey County, where he labored as a local preacher for a number of years. These located preachers usually acted in concert and kept up a regular plan of appointments. Of these, Garnett, Wheeler, Shrader and Ashworth, who labored in Posey, Vanderburgh, and adjoining counties, were prominent; and at camp meetings and two days’ meetings, they were a power.”

This period of his life, serving as a “located” preacher in Posey County, extended from 1829 to the year of his death in 1838. During that time this sainted man preached in Black and Point Townships in the Chapels of Prairie, Farmer’s, Greathouse and Black. His daughter Jane, wife of Asbury C. Jaquess, often spoke of hearing him preach in the “Old Wel-born Grove” when he spoke with such power, that “the glory of God seemed to shine through the tree tops.”

His earthly remains lie in a little private cemetery about fifty or seventy-five yards from the Prairie Chapel, where he had so often labored for the Master. The little farm had been bequeathed to his son Nathan B., by Moses’ brother Nathan for whom the younger Nathan was named. In 1868 Nathan B. moved with his family to this little prairie farm,—making his first duty that of the restoration of the graves of Moses and Eliza Ashworth, and their daughters, Martha and Rebecca.

Nathan’s daughter Sallie (now living in Winfield, Kansas), speaks of building her playhouses near the graves of her honored dead, and hanging wreaths upon the marble slabs.

When the farm was sold in 1878 to Joseph Gill, the understanding was that the ground occupied by the church and graveyard should be reserved for that purpose. After Mr. Gill’s death, the land once more changed owners, falling into

the hands of a man who, in order to increase his acreage, had the once-sacred graves plowed over. Many of the slabs had been uprooted and carried away by the floods of 1875, and such vandalism can only be accounted for by a possible ignorance as to the distinct location of graves.

The little congregation was incensed, however, at such a sacrilege and the Indiana Methodist Conference has had under advisement for some time, the erection of a fitting monument to Moses Ashworth's memory.

Referring once more to the old Robertson Church along the banks of Silver Creek, it is of interest to know that in 1907 a centennial celebration was held at this little chapel, where Methodists of national prominence as well as local fame were present. The editor of the *Western Christian Advocate*, who attended the ceremonies, later published in his paper an account which is of interest. He says in part: "Interest seemed centered around the three Methodist churches built by pioneer families, as they were combined into a circuit, and Moses Ashworth, an energetic man, took hold of this first itinerant's charge, called Silver Creek, from an eccentric stream on whose banks one of the log chapels was raised. Here was a circuit which extended from the site of Louisville up to the valley of the Whitewater. And yet so thoroughly did Moses Ashworth cover the territory that at the end of this first year he reported a membership of one hundred and eighty-eight. Doubtless there were other pioneer preachers than Moses Ashworth who labored in that field of which old Robertson's Chapel is the sole remaining relic. The imagination readily conjures up a picture of the old church at the time of some great meeting, when the lard-dips along the wall threw a flickering light over an earnest, eager group of pioneers. How changed, the old church of today! Instead of neighboring Methodists, much of the settlement is now given over to German Roman Catholics and the colored race and less than half a mile away from the log chapel, the ominous cross of a Romish church points skyward.

"Moved from spot to spot, until it now rests a good half mile from the old church yard, the church has settled in the rear of a very poor vegetable garden, within a hundred yards of where the limited express thunders past, in a shower of cinders. Its present purpose is to shelter from winter storms and snows, an aged and solitary mule."

The latter paragraph of the editor's description is happily forgotten, when we discover that in 1903 and 1904 (through the agencies of J. Edward Murr, a loyal rider of the circuit), the chapel was purchased by the Indiana Conference; it was restored to the original foundation and strengthened by logs, once used in the old fort nearby. The chapel is not in active service, being used merely as a shrine, the affairs of which, with the Robertson graveyard near by, are in the hands of able trustees.

Could not the tribute of Milburn to Peter Cartwright be applied to Moses Vincent Ashworth, this father of Indiana Methodism? "He had been in jeopardy among robbers, and in danger from desperadoes who had sworn to take his life. He had preached in the cabin of the slave, and in the mansion of the master. He had taken his life in his hand and ridden in the path of whizzing bullets, that he might proclaim peace. He had stood on the outskirts of civilization and welcomed the first comers to the woods and prairies. At the command of Him who said "Go into all the world" he had roamed through the wilderness as a disciple of the man who said "The world is my parish"; all this, he had done without hope of fee or reward; not to enrich himself or his posterity, but as a preacher of righteousness in the service of God and his fellowmen."

Whence came such messengers of grace?

Out of Lincolnshire and our own Virginia!

Whither are they going?

Surely—to the throne of God!

President Iglehart: The next on our program this afternoon is "Judge William Prince," by Colonel Gil R. Stormont, Princeton.

Mr. Stormont: Mr. President, Members of the Society: I think it was about time for Gibson County to be heard from. You have heard from most of the other counties, and I am very glad to respond on behalf of Gibson County and give a little sketch of the man who was very prominent in the affairs of the county and in the affairs of this state before any of those others that you have heard about were doing very much. He had served his time and his services before Abraham Lincoln had got to be known, except probably in his neighborhood, while he was yet a boy. This man, Judge William Prince,

was a very prominent man in the early history of the state and his descendants have been prominent in their locality or community in which they have lived since, in Princeton, and here in Evansville.

Judge William Prince was a character unknown to the general biographical encyclopedias, but he did a wonderful work and he did what was considered a large part of the work towards establishing the organization of the state.

JUDGE WILLIAM PRINCE

By Colonel Gil R. Stormont, Princeton.

In the northwest corner of the court house yard in Princeton there is a small concrete block in which is set a bronze tablet bearing this inscription:

"Erected, 1914, Centennial year, by Gen. John Gibson Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, in honor of Judge William Prince, after whom Princeton was named."

On a plain marble slab at the grave in the old cemetery near the city is the plainly legible inscription, "Judge William Prince, Died September 4, 1824." Except this bronze tablet and this plain marble stone there is nothing in the way of monument or memorial in honor of a man who filled so large a place in the pioneer history of Southern Indiana,—a man who had much to do in public affairs before and after Indiana was organized as a state.

Until that centennial year in Princeton's history, when this local organization of women of patriotic lineage took up the matter, there had been no established mark or historic tablet in honor of the distinguished citizen after whom the town took its name. Until this commendable action of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in the erection of this modest memorial tablet, there were comparatively few people in Princeton who could readily give answer to the question as to why the town was so named. Few of the present generation could give any information as to the origin of the name of the town, or the character and history of the man in whose honor it was named.

Those who were familiar with the history of the organization of Gibson County were cognizant of the fact, that on the

14th day of February, 1814, William Prince was one of four commissioners appointed to select a site for the county seat, who met for that purpose and decided on the place, and, in honor of their worthy associate, the three commissioners named the site, Princeton. But comparatively few of the present generation who had lived and been educated in the town were familiar with this historic fact.

The tendency of teachers and the teaching of history in our schools is to give stress to people and affairs abroad, as exploited in the text books of ancient history, and give little or no attention to people and affairs of their own town and township. The average history student is ready for his diploma when he can tell you all about the mythical founder of Rome, though he may be a veritable "dumb-bell" as to information in regard to the people who were prominently identified with the history and organization of the town and county in which he lives.

In the establishment of this memorial tablet the Daughters of the American Revolution have supplied a deficiency in education relating to the local history of Princeton and set an example which might well be emulated in other towns within the domain of this Society.

William Prince was a native of Ireland, born in 1772, and came to America about 1804. He first settled in Vincennes where he took up the study of law, and made such progress that he soon engaged in the practice. He was appointed prosecuting attorney, and later was appointed territorial judge. He served under General Harrison in the suppression of Indian troubles, and rendered valuable service in concluding many treaties of peace with the Indians. Prince was a member of Harrison's staff in the campaign and battle of Tippecanoe, with the rank of Captain and aide-de-camp.

Vincennes at this time being the seat of government was also the center of social life in the territory, and the commanding presence, courtliness and affability of the young Captain Prince, made him an attractive person at all social functions. He had not been long a resident of the town until a Miss Theresa Fromble, a strikingly beautiful French girl of fourteen summers completely captivated him with her unaffected charms, and he sought her hand in marriage. Her stern father, who was a man of wealth and influence, resented the advances of the young Irishman as preposterous, but the

black-eyed maiden reciprocated all the tender sentiment of affection from her ardent lover, in spite of her father's protest.

Finally, Prince determined to press his suit with the girl's father, and, putting on a bold front sought the pater familias hoping that he would relent after hearing the lover's plea. But not so. The haughty Frenchman summoned to his aid a goodly number of his minions and thrust the undesirable suitor into a barn and placed him under lock and key.

This action created considerable of a stir among the people of Vincennes. The idea of inflicting punishment by imprisonment without due process of law did not appeal to the people, who were just beginning to realize and appreciate the beneficence of freedom and liberty. The natives, who were especially friendly to Prince, looked upon his treatment by the wealthy Frenchman as an outrage, and they threatened to take measures of retaliation. Then there were rumors circulated of prosecution for false imprisonment, and the very fair prospect of heavy damages to be paid by the impetuous Frenchman. He became alarmed, and consented to the release of his prisoner. But the young man spurned his proffered liberty and refused to leave the barn where he had been confined, although the doors were open.

Fromble was beside himself with rage and anxiety to get his prisoner off his hands and his premises. He demanded wrathfully to know what his prisoner wanted and why he did not go when liberty was offered him. The youthful lover replied that he intended to remain until he had secured that for which he came. And, in spite of threats and entreaties, the young man did remain until the father was forced reluctantly to give his consent to the marriage of his daughter.

Prince was very proud of his wife and very devoted to her during all the years of their married life. They had two sons, George and Harry, who died without perpetuating the name. Elizabeth, the older daughter, married Judge Hall, of Princeton; Nancy, the younger of the two daughters, married Dr. William Stockwell, of Evansville.

Judge Prince was elected as a representative in the territorial legislature held in Vincennes, in 1809, and his name is found among the members of the legislature that met at Corydon, after the capital of the territory had been removed to that place, in 1813. He was a delegate to the convention that framed the constitution for the admission of the territory as

a state in 1816, and was a member of the first Legislature held under the state organization. It was about this time when Judge Prince became a resident of Princeton, Gibson County, and he continued this as his legal residence for the rest of his life.

Soon after Indiana was admitted as a state Prince was appointed circuit judge, in place of Judge Parks, resigned. The circuit was designated the fourth judicial circuit and was composed of Knox, Gibson, Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Spencer and Perry. Judge Prince resigned after holding this position for something over a year, and accepted an appointment as Indian agent, stationed at Vincennes.

The Indians with whom Judge Prince had to deal while serving as agent inhabited the section of country of which Vincennes was the center. They were the remnants of several tribes, including Shawnees, Sacs, Fox, Kickapoo, Miami, and Pottawatomie tribes. These tribes roamed at will over the hills and valleys of this region and were generally peaceful and friendly towards the white settlers, so far as Indian nature could maintain that disposition and attitude. However, the friendly disposition was not so ardent among these Indians as to restrain them from occasionally stealing hogs, sheep, poultry, and committing other depredations among the white settlers.

The descendants of Judge Prince, through the family of Judge Samuel Hall, whose wife was a daughter of Judge Prince, have been identified with the social and business affairs of Princeton for well nigh a century. Judge Hall himself was a man prominent in county and state affairs, having served as lieutenant-governor of the state, in 1840-43. There has never been a time in all these years when some of the descendants of the Prince family have not been engaged in business in Princeton, and in some way identified with public affairs in the town and county. An interesting collection of letters and official papers of Judge Prince have been preserved in the family and handed down from father to son, and are now in the hands of Fred J. Hall, a great grandson and a prominent business man of Princeton. Many of the papers in this collection are bills, or duplicate of bills, rendered against the government for Indian supplies while Judge Prince was acting as Indian agent at Vincennes.

From an examination of some of the bills that were pre-

sented and paid by the agency under the administration of Judge Prince, it would appear that the government was exceedingly generous in those days in furnishing the Indians in this section of the country with things necessary for sustenance—and even with some things that in the light of the present day do not seem necessary. And it also appears that the Indians of that day—as is characteristic of the Indians of a later day—were not modest in their demands, but were inclined to the notion that the time and opportunity to get was while the getting was good. There is evidence, too, in these bills, that “profiteering” was not an unknown art in that far away time. This was largely by the white men who had dealings with the agency through the Indians, and encouraged them to make demands on the government.

A bill amounting to \$113.00 was paid to Pierre Laplante, of Vincennes, in 1820, covering various specified items, one of which was an item of six dollars for transporting the annuity to the Wea Indians, at Fort Harrison, near the present site of Terre Haute. Another item in this bill was a charge of six dollars for “rounding-up” the Indians to get their annuity.

There were other bills for large amounts for bullocks and other meat, and bills for corn whiskey, caring for horses, repairing guns, etc. One gunsmith’s bill amounted to \$400 in one year for making guns and repairing weapons for the Indians. Seventy-five cents for repairing a tomahawk was not an unusual charge. Imagine the untutored savage carrying his old tomahawk to the gunsmith shop and getting seventy-five cents worth of repairs made on this crude weapon. Imagine the gall of the gunsmith who could make a bill such as that for repairing an implement of that kind, but the government paid the bill as evidenced by a voucher.

Those Indians were great eaters, judging by the bills presented and paid by the agency for meat and other provisions. They also had an abnormal thirst for corn whiskey which was an essential part of government supplies. According to the bills, whiskey was furnished in quantities of ten and twenty gallons quite frequently, and this supply didn’t last long, especially when a pow-wow or treaty conference was held. Many items in the bills, especially items that may be classed as luxuries, were ordered by chiefs for their personal use. And it appears there were more chiefs than Indians of common

rank. A chief seems to have had the privilege of going to the limit in making requisition for government supplies.

In a bill presented August 28, 1820, by Christian Greater, of Vincennes, a charge of \$3.37½ is made for breakfast for nine Delaware chiefs. Another bill by the same party is a charge of \$7.00 for keeping two Indian horses seven days, and a bill of \$9.50 for keeping Indian horses brought in by white people as estrays. Another claim of \$1,478 was rendered February 5, 1821, for money advanced for provisions for the Delaware Indians who were enroute from the White river country to Arkansas, having been driven westward by treaty with the whites. Evidently this tribe was not in a hurry to get to its destination, and must have tarried quite a while about Vincennes where the government feeding was good.

Judge Prince resigned the agency July 8, 1822, and was succeeded by Henry R. Schoolcraft, of New York, and the agency was transferred to Detroit.

Judge Prince was appointed by the Governor as one of the commissioners to select a site for the state capital. The other members of the commission were:

George Hunt, Wayne county; John Connor, Fayette county; Stephen Ludlow, Decatur county; John Gilleland, Switzerland county; Joseph Bartholomew, Clark county; Jesse B. Durham, Jackson county; John Tipton, Harrison county; Frederick Rapp, Posey county; Thomas Emison, Knox county.

This committee met at the time and place designated by the Governor and, after canvassing many of the sites proposed, selected a location for the permanent capital of Indiana on the west fork of White river, then a dense woods. And the place was named Indianapolis.

It was about the time that William Prince came to this country and settled in Vincennes that the movements of Aaron Burr, in his proposed invasion of Mexico and the establishment of an independent government in the southwest, was creating a good deal of commotion throughout the country. Burr visited Vincennes and other places in the Indiana territory and enlisted a number of inhabitants in his enterprise, which he claimed had the sanction of the government at Washington. Prince was solicited to join in the enterprise and was inclined to do so, on the assurance it had the government approval. But before taking any action he made inquiry of

Governor Harrison and learned that Burr's expedition was without government sanction and was of a treasonable character, and Prince declined to have part in it.

Burr was afterwards arrested and tried for treason but escaped conviction. In 1809, when Prince was a candidate for the legislature, he was charged with having enlisted in Burr's enterprise and of having had some part in his treasonable designs. Prince used a large amount of space in the *Vincennes Sun* of that date to explain his dealings with Burr and to clear himself of the unjust charge.

In 1822 Judge Prince was elected as representative in Congress from the First district, which was then composed of twenty-two counties in the southwestern part of the state. His opponent was Col. Dewey, who hailed from Massachusetts and was rather above the average of the western country in refinement and culture, a circumstance which was not to his advantage among the yeomanry of the district. Dewey was also in bad repute because of his record of opposition to the war against England in 1812, and of having gone to Canada to reside while the war was in progress.

The campaign between Judge Prince and Col. Dewey was quite spirited, and a good deal of bitter personalities were indulged in, as appears in the columns of the *Vincennes Sun*. The result was the election of Judge Prince by a very substantial majority. An indication of the popularity of Prince in Gibson, his home county, is shown in the vote—447 for Prince and 18 for Dewey.

Judge Prince did not serve one full term in Congress. In February, 1824, he authorized his friends in Princeton to announce that he would not be a candidate for re-election, as it was his desire to retire to private life with the purpose of devoting his time to his professional duties in the town which had been named in his honor, and which he had so worthily honored in the capacity as a citizen, a lawyer and jurist.

But he did not live to enjoy the anticipated pleasures of private life. His death occurred before the election of his successor. The activities in which he had engaged, and the strenuous work imposed in the varied public duties which he had undertaken, affected his health. At the age of 52 years—a comparatively young man—he died, September 4, 1824.

President Iglehart: Judge Elmer Q. Lockyear is here,

who has a short sketch on "Francis B. Posey," our own 'Frank.'

FRANCIS B. POSEY

By Judge Elmer Q. Lockyear, Evansville

Mr. Lockyear: Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen: I don't know how long you call a short sketch, or how short you call a long sketch. I don't know whether I want to read or talk this afternoon upon this subject. A great many of our newspapers tell us, and some people who can't make a speech tell us, that the days of oratory are over, and that oratory has given place to the newspaper. I maintain that oratory will never die, and that oratory, although changed in its purpose, and in its plans, and in its methods, is still with us. The trouble is that the greatest of our orations that have moved people to action and duty have been lost, and history has nothing to record except in the memory and traditions of our people.

Judge Iglehart asked me sometime ago to put on paper all I could gather, or as much as I could gather, concerning whom we claim to be the greatest orator that has ever stepped upon the platform in southern Indiana. Francis B. Posey, born in Pike county, 1848, and died in Rockport, 1915, who at the age of sixteen years was able to qualify to enter DePauw University, who came out and was elected, or I think appointed as District Attorney for the Court of Common Pleas in his county at a very early age, was admitted to the bar before he was twenty-one years of age. He immediately sprang into prominence as an orator, as a lawyer, as a man of the first rank, who kept it throughout his entire life, and who has never had a peer in this section of the country.

Francis B. Posey deserves to have a place in the history of southwestern Indiana and in the history of the Nation as one of the greatest orators that America has ever produced. Francis B. Posey had a mind filled with the choicest pieces of literature, with history, with philosophy, with all that goes to make up a man of education, refinement and power. He had it as a merchant has his goods upon the shelf, and with only a hand to reach it and take it down whenever occasion demanded. We thought that Francis B. Posey was inspired. We thought that his speeches were delivered upon a moment's

notice, a thing which very seldom happens. Most extemporaneous speeches that we consider the finest, and those that fit the occasion best are those that have been studied most, and it is the result not of immediate study but it is the result of years and years of preparation. There was no better student, more thorough student of literature, than Francis B. Posey.

I remember a time when a number of us, perhaps a hundred men, took the *John S. Hopkins* and went down the river on the Roosevelt excursion from Cairo to Memphis on a river trip. Francis B. Posey sat in the back of that boat all the way down there every day and late into the night. When other men were playing cards he sat in the back of the boat up until after midnight reading bits of choice literature. He had a habit of not caring much about himself, about his personal appearance, and the next morning, very late, Francis B. Posey was upon the same couch that he had lain upon during the day, and the piece of literature from which he had been reading dropped at his side. That was a habit of his. He cared not much for conventionalities nor the habits of other men. That didn't amount to much with him. The question of business affairs didn't amount to much with him. The question of business management, or of politics didn't amount to much to him. Friends borrowed from him and never returned, and his political friends generally went back on him. There were times in his life when we thought that we would honor ourselves by electing Francis B. Posey to the governorship of Indiana, or to the United States Senate in Indiana, and those of us who were in practical politics around here tried to tell him what to do. But he would listen to none of us and went his own sweet way down to defeat. Judge Tracewell told me of an occasion that represents his method in life. He said that at the time that Albert J. Beveridge was first elected as a youth out of Indianapolis, nominated and elected to the Senate, that there was a combination formed there that if Francis B. Posey would simply step aside and let Frank Hanly be elected to the United States Senate that combination would guarantee that they would elect Posey to the governorship of Indiana next time. He said: "No, I have it now." He relied upon the promises of his friends in politics. He was not elected Governor nor to the Senate. How much the turn of a hand sometimes makes in a man's life!

We considered Posey here in the city of Evansville as the strongest man at the bar before a jury. I don't think he ever took down a note in his life, and when other lawyers sat and wrote item after item of what witnesses were testifying, Francis Posey would walk up and down the court room with his hands behind his back and listen to every word that was said. Everybody thought he was dreaming, but every word of every witness was recorded in his mind, and when he got up to present his case there was not a single thing in favor of his client said on either side but what he was able to present it in a logical way for his side of the case. Any lawyer on the other side was always mighty glad when he sat down because it was all said, and I don't think any man who ever had the prosecution of a criminal had a more biting tongue than he had, nor any man that ever was defending the defenseless man defended him better than Frank Posey did. There were times, of course, that his argument did not carry. It was said in some of the early cases in our courts that judges even set aside verdicts of juries because they believed that Francis B. Posey unduly swayed the verdict of these juries. I sometimes think that when he went up and down here we hardly realized how much strength of character he had in this way. I said a minute ago that he knew nothing about the business affairs of life and was as apt to buy a poor farm as a rich one, and his idea of value was as much in the Warrick county hills as in the flats of Posey county. We were amused when he tried to raise flowers in a coal mine in the hills, but to him there was something to it. I think sometimes when we think of the life of Posey in this community that we hardly realize how much idealism, how much of the ideal life he really lived here. And after he has gone we begin to appreciate to some degree some of the orations that he delivered. Most of us thought that they were gone like the morning dew.

When Mr. Iglehart asked me if I could collect some of the things he had said, I said: "No, all that Francis B. Posey has ever said has gone like the morning dew." But, strange to say, I have been able to collect a number of his choicest orations that his family kept and we thought he had never written down a single line that could ever be perpetuated to history. So I have had my reporter to collect and write here in this little volume what he had written down as the best of his orations on these subjects. Of course, he never wrote out an

oration in full. He wrote out the main points of his oration and then as the oration would come to him he would collect from them the things to embellish the things he had in his speech and never were written down. For instance, in his speech on Abraham Lincoln, I remember it very well, and I want to say that Henry Watterson never delivered a finer oration on Abraham Lincoln. I remember to this day how he described the bitter feeling between Lincoln and Edwin M. Stanton, when Stanton turned his back upon him when Lincoln was a young man practicing law in Cincinnati; when Lincoln appointed him as Secretary of War; and how graphically he described the scene of Abraham Lincoln when he came out to be inaugurated President for the first time. He said he came out with his gold cane in one hand and stove-pipe [hat] in another, and with his inaugural address in his pocket, and his late adversary Stephen A. Douglas came up and stood by his side and held the hat of Abraham Lincoln as a token of his tribute of respect and his loyalty to his country at the time when they needed loyalty of men of all parties. And no man could have heard that description without going away feeling better and knowing there are men in this country who differ in politics, but when it comes to the crisis in their country they are ready to stand by their country and its constitution. This was a great tribute that he paid to Stephen A. Douglas and to Abraham Lincoln.

Another one I call to mind here, is his speech on the legal tender question. We remember The Crime of '73. It will pay you well to read what he had to say about The Crime of '73. Judge Gough remembers something about that.

And then he made a strong attack upon our system of granting patents to people of the United States, a fine argument on the subject of the "Citadel of Privilege."

Now, most of us who are members of the Republican party always thought when Frank Posey spoke to us that he had said the last word and most of the members of the party throughout the district who thought their party wasn't doing the right thing, after they heard Frank Posey, would be certain that the Republican party was right again and would go out and vote for it.

Another thing that took the most of his attention in later years was the improvement of the Ohio river. When we think of the Boehne Dam and the new dam at Newburgh here,

remember that Frank Posey was the man who did as much as any other man and perhaps more and got less out of it personally than any other person to bring about the improvement of this great river. I remember going with him and other members of the committee to present claims of Evansville for the construction of Boehne Dam before the committee in Congress. We let Frank Posey do the talking for us.

He had another speech that he called "Why God doesn't kill the Devil." Frank Posey told us conclusively why God doesn't kill the devil and we thought it was all right when he got through.

As Judge Iglehart has said, the people of this surrounding country have not appreciated the fact that we had this man in our own locality. But in the districts outlying—I want you to listen to what Elbert Hubbard has to say concerning Francis B. Posey. Elbert Hubbard came down some years ago when the Editorial Association met at Lincoln City to pay tribute to the memory of Nancy Hanks Lincoln. There were in that assembly some of the greatest orators that Indiana and the country has ever produced. But Elbert Hubbard in reporting that says:

"At the Nancy Hanks Memorial ex-Congressman Frank B. Posey spoke to us. He was famous for his pleasantries, and famous, too, for the fact that he said that Posey county grows one hundred bushels of corn to the acre, and fifty bushels of wheat, and the grain and corn in proportion. New Harmony is in Posey county. There lived George Rapp who founded the Rappites and paved the way for Robert Owen who worked out the organic scheme of truck farming. In Posey county there was formed the first Woman's Club in America, and the first Library as well. Restrain your smiles when Posey county is mentioned. You are on sacred soil. Colonel Posey is an orator and a statesman. He is saturated with Lincoln memories and radiates the good old days. His speech was worth the journey, even if I had heard naught else."

President Iglehart: In addition to the address of Judge Lockyear I want to give my estimate of the man with whom I was associated practically during his entire life. When I went to college in 1865 I sat in the freshman class on the same bench with him, he on one side of the room, I on the other. The seat and the back of the bench were nailed together at

a right angle, and extended across the entire width of the room. My memory of the freshman and sophomore classes, of which Frank Posey was a member with me, is more distinct of him than any other member of the class. He had not then reached his physical maturity, he had a light boyish voice pitched on high key which had none of the music of his voice in mature years, which was one of the charms of his oratory.

He spent more of his time in the ample college library, and seemed to find more in the splendid collection of books there, than any man whom I remember in my college experience. He had an intellectual perception, an initiative and self-confidence as a student in the class, which manifested themselves frequently in a challenge from the students' bench to the professor at the head of the class room, in which he always held his own. He was one of those students who gave the college professor a good deal of concern.

He "batched" in college, living alone with the boys where they took care of their own rooms, and he said to me in later years that his mother had died in his early youth, and he was reared by his father.

After graduation, in the course of events, I became general counsel to a railroad system, and my duty was to have charge of the management of court trials, some of which were jury trials, involving large interests, and at various points in western and southwestern Indiana. I made it a rule to obtain for aid in such jury trials the best jury talent within reach, and, whenever I could, in very important litigations, employ Frank Posey to cross-examine my opponent's witnesses and to make the closing argument to a jury, I did so. Some of these trials occupied weeks in the taking of testimony, and involved very large sums of money. In preparation of the evidence and policy of the litigation I consulted with him, but used entirely my own judgment. He was willing to take more chances than I was, and we sometimes differed, but in the cross-examination of the opponent's witnesses he was one of the most formidable men I ever saw in a court trial. Time and again I have seen him break down an opponent's witness, seemingly through the force of an overpowering personality.

He had the rare quality among public orators, where he was furnished with proper preparation and, particularly, where he felt that he was on the right side of the case, of making good at the supreme point in his case and rising to

the full limit of his power as a natural orator. In the greatest trials in which I was associated with him, without exception, he rose to the highest point of efficiency in his oratory. When he was clearly right he was an invulnerable man, never overmatched in oratorical power with a jury.

The late Judge Oscar M. Welborn, who was for about thirty years judge of the circuit court for Gibson and Pike counties, part of the time of Posey county, told me that so great was the power of Frank Posey in jury trials that he felt it his duty to be continually on the alert during such trials, and frequently was compelled to interfere when he differed with Posey, to prevent what seemed to him to be a failure of justice.

Frank Posey was a self-reliant man. I always regarded him as a man of great natural ability so far above the great majority of men with whom he associated in the early part of his life as to make him indifferent to the opinions of others, as Judge Lockyear intimates. If he had made his political alliances, as he might have done, with successful men, and been willing to yield at the proper time to others, he might have reached, as I believe, high national prominence. As he was, I regarded him as one of the natural great men of Indiana, one of the greatest natural orators with whom it has ever been my privilege to be personally acquainted. His highest points of oratory nearly always carried him through the great spiritual field of right, justice and truth. He was educated in a church school where moral culture is interwoven with mental culture, and where the dividing line between right and wrong, and the good and the bad, was distinctly outlined at the threshold of his life.

My personal relations with him were always of the most intimate character, and as a friend I sincerely mourn his loss.

Among the orators of this section I would compare Frank Posey to Agamemnon as he is described by Homer in that splendid roster of kings in the Grecian army before Troy—He was "Anax Andron"—above them all.

President Iglehart: Mrs. Bacon will now come forward.

Mrs. Bacon: This poem was written by order of our President. I have written it in blank verse because I think that matters of history and philosophy have no business with rimes. I have called it "At the Landing" and I want you to feel as I always feel when I stand there.

AT THE LANDING

By Mrs. Hilary E. Bacon (Albion Fellows), Evansville

There is a spell upon the soil, where first
 Our history began; where boats were tied
 At that first landing, and the first foot trod,
 Beside the red man's. Standing on that spot,
 With the broad sweep of stream and field and sky,
 Half veiled in haze (like history), half disclosed,
 One must have dreams of all this stream has seen
 Before the white man came, and, after that,
 Sweeping a hundred years and more to seek
 The Gulf. Then dense, dark forests covered all
 From the Ohio, miles on every side.
 Then, when the sun dropped down o'er Forest Hills
 And left the golden glory of the sky
 Mirrored in golden glory of the stream,
 Darkening to orange, dimming into gray,
 Melting in purple shadows, as night fell,
 There were no shore lights twinkling in the gloom,
 Only a trembling trail of starlight streamed
 Across the water; or the crescent moon
 Swung low to see its image. Or, perhaps,
 A wigwam fire shone through the forest boughs.

Then, wigwams passed away, and trappers built
 Their camp-fires here. At last, a chimney smoked
 And in a cabin window candle light
 Gave beckonings of home. Then lanterns swung
 Along the shore to signal to the boats.
 More and more cabins cheered the forest gloom,
 Then cottages, then mansions took their place,
 And set the river's edge ablaze at night,
 Till now, around the bend, and at the wharf,
 The city, myriad jewelled, gleams afar.

Like changes swept the people, as the place,
 In all these years of growth, and one must dream
 Of all who stood beside that river's brink,
 And mused or mourned, or planned, and watched and gazed.

Here, Hugh McGary stood, and dreamed he saw
 Upon the wooded shore a city rise,
 And Evans with him, whose appraising glance
 Took in the harbor and the circling hills,
 Whose treasures lay, unguessed, locked in their breasts.
 Here inland farmers, trappers, traders, came
 To see the great Ohio, and the town
 Fast rising on its shore. Our fathers, too,

In quaint, rude craft, canoe, batteau and ark,
 Came drifting down, with household goods and stores.
 And here they landed. What they brought with them
 Of courage and ideals, went to make
 The strong foundations of the town they built.
 And what privations, what rebuffs they bore.
 Old earth, could you but tell what feet have trod
 This sacred soil, who knelt to offer prayer
 For preservation in the wilderness!

How many, then unknown, who later leapt
 To fame, have paced this shore. Here must have come
 Some time, young Lincoln, tall and gaunt of frame,
 With eager eyes, far-seeing, caught in dreams
 A moment as he mused, before he passed
 Through to another hamlet; in his hand
 Perhaps a borrowed law book, or a keen
 New axe-head, for our town provided wares
 The others did not have. Perhaps one hand
 Thrust in his pocket, fingered coin to pay
 For carding of his wool at Evans' place.
 Perhaps he came from Breckenridge's home,
 That shrine of grace and culture, that gave more
 To form great Lincoln's mind than history tells.
 Or, rowing down from Rockport, landing here,
 He may have stopped to rest upon the shore,
 His heart athrob with Pitcher's eloquence.
 There, as he sat and gazed, could he have seen
 Dim, dusky hands stretched to him in appeal
 From out Kentucky's shadows? Who can tell?

Years followed years. The woods were cleared away,
 The woodland trail became a path—a road,
 The road, a street. The town had grown apace.
 Then, one day, Foster trod the pebbly shore,
 And, caught up by the river's spell of dreams,
 Saw in the sunset clouds far continents,
 Strange shores, and rising dim and fair above,
 Castles in Spain, awaiting his command.
 Here Denby strode, and saw reflected, shine
 The temples of the Kingdom of the sun,
 And, in this yellow stream, a Yellow Sea.

Now, musing on the future and the past,
 Historian and City Planner meet.
 And one would trace the River to its source,
 The other to its end, replanning here
 A greater city than our fathers dreamed.
 So let us plan, and bring our plans to pass.
 But, even as we view our landmarks old,

And think, "Dust are the hands that wrought and built,
 Dust are the hearts that loved and planned for us,"
 We know that others shall look back to *us*,
 And finger o'er *our* records, curiously,
 When we, too, are but dust—and history!
 And one shall muse beside the river here,
 "What queer folk lived in 1923,"
 And think, "All else is changed, except the stream,
 That changes not, but sweeps, like history, on."

President Iglehart: We will now hear from Mr. Otto Laval, Evansville, on "Indian Relics."

INDIAN RELICS

By Otto Laval, Evansville.

About twelve years ago found me in poor health, and on the advice of several physicians and friends I began taking long walks into the country. On several occasions previous to this, while out shooting, I had found Indian rocks and presented them to my old friend, Mr. Sebastian Henrich, who had been collecting for many years and had a fine display at his office. One of my first walks led me across the river, striking out for the Kentucky hills. I passed over about a mile of bottom ground. It was here I found the Major farm mound, known for miles around, and it has given up many fine specimens. During the first half hour I had picked up about twenty flint pieces, when the thought struck me, Why not start a collection of my own?

Mr. Henrich joined me on many of my trips and encouraged me, and from that time until now has found me hunting new mounds and burials, forgetting my sickness, and today I am acquainted with most Indian grounds in this vicinity. Mr. Henrich had an old map of southern Indiana and every burial or mound we found he would mark in red ink. When I speak of digging, I merely mean a trench several feet deep, not leveling the mound, as that would take months and many men. There is too much uncertainty in digging to risk much effort or money. I have been a prospector only in a fast passing field of relics. In nearly every field on the high ridge bordering the bottoms, from Hatfield to Hovey's lake, there have been, and are today, Indian relics.

You have so often read or heard people speak of the Mound Builders as a different race, supposed to have been here long

before the Indian. We have a record in the Smithsonian report, made by Major Powell, of seeing a mound under construction, by Indians in Minnesota. This was about 1870. Mounds do not all have burials or relics—in fact the mound proper seldom furnishes as much as the surrounding ground. The majority of my pieces are surface finds, that is, they were plowed up or washed out, but my very best pieces have been dug out. Today's heavy tractor plow is rapidly crushing the few remaining pieces. Spring is the best time to hunt for them, as the frost seems to draw them out, while the summer heat seems to drive them down. The bones and teeth remain on top. I recall a trip with Mr. Henrich to the Richardson mound east of Yankeetown; we dug a trench about five feet deep in clean mussel shells, tons of them, but no relics. I then walked to the bottoms south of Yankeetown, found a fine mound about 12 feet high, dug about two hours, found one body with one celt at the side. In these burials, the relics are mostly found near the left shoulder or at the thigh. I try to leave the bones undisturbed. So often we find things we do not recognize or identify.

On one occasion at the Major mound I found a piece of skull, painted or stained olive green, and threw it away. I later learned that it represented the skull of a captured chief, painted by the victor and used as a cup or tobacco container. I find that these mounds have all been dug into before my visit to them, but am always hopeful there is still something left for me, and during this year have done more digging than ever before.

I had begged Mr. Grim, owner of the old Angel farm, a long time before I received permission to dig, but my efforts have been well rewarded with pipes, and some small pottery, and on one occasion, a skeleton. I telephoned Mr. Henrich to come out and we would finish digging, which we did, finding one sandstone pipe. Several weeks later, after a rain, another hunter found an ivory ring at this very spot, that we missed. I always promise the landlord or tenant before digging to give them any money or gold that may be found. Mt. Vernon mounds have furnished many of my specimens. It has been said that thousands of dollars worth of relics had been dug and sold from them years ago.

On the banks of the Ohio we find several burials on the old James farm, below the Angel mound. These have all

caved into the river. During low water I have picked up pieces here. Then, on Diamond Island and opposite, on the Kentucky shore, we find burials washed into the river.

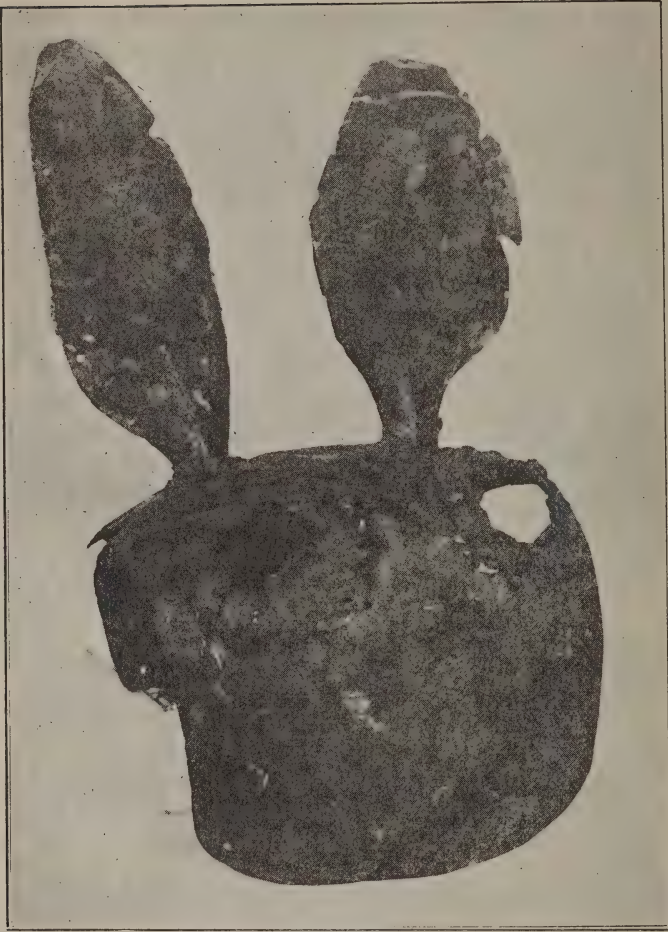
On the supposed island above the waterworks, where Dade Park now is, was a burial where I have found good pieces on the sand ridge. I remember a story told me by an old lady who died several years ago. Her husband took two of his men to the round mound on Pollock Avenue. They started digging a hole at the top. The first day passed with no results, but on the second day they began hearing strange noises but could not determine where they came from. When they returned the third day and started work, the noises began again and the deeper the hole, the greater the noise, like clanking of chains, beating of drums, barking and growling of dogs. The men became frightened, dropped their shovels and ran, so the mound has not been disturbed since. This was said to have happened years ago.

This recalls one of the many stories told me by Mr. Henrich. There was an old man, a sort of hermit, who brought several pieces to him and invited Mr. Henrich out to his place. On arriving there, he was presented with several other pieces. He was then asked, "When and how do you find these?" The hermit said, "I call on the spirit of an old Indian Chief; he tells in my dreams where to dig."

On many of my trips I have had the pleasure of having my wife along, and on several occasions her finds have been better than my own. We have found more than a hundred pieces in one day.

Like most everything else, we find imitations of Indian work. In old and New Mexico you can buy it. At Oxford, Ohio, I saw about twenty different pieces, and beautiful too, made by a white man; and at Highland, California, you can buy flint pieces by the dozen, made to order.

Following this general introduction, Mr. Laval exhibited a number of his specimens of Indian relics explaining carefully the way they were made and the uses made of them. Among these one of the most interesting was a copper mask used by an Indian Medicine Man. The material came from near Lake Superior.



INDIAN MEDICINE MAN'S MASK

The Society agreed to have a reproduction of this mask included in the *Proceedings* of the meeting.

President Iglehart: The Committee on Nomination of officers will now report.

Mrs. George S. Clifford: The Committee on Nominations makes the following report:

For President: Thomas James de la Hunt, Cannelton.

For Secretary: Mrs. Calder De Bruler Ehrmann, Rockport.

For Treasurer: George H. Honig, Evansville.

Mr. Chairman: I move that this report be accepted.

President Iglehart: Those in favor of this election say Aye; contrary, No. - (Viva voce vote.) They are elected. Mr. Thomas James de la Hunt is President and will take the chair.

President de la Hunt: One of the features I have always heard about New Harmony's famous Minerva Society was that each incoming President, elected for six weeks, had to give an inaugural address, as well as the outgoing President had to give a valedictory. I am happy to say that such a custom does not prevail in the Southwestern Indiana Historical Society.

Adjournment.

